

National insurance rates rise will favour self-employed

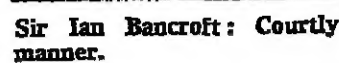
However, Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, announced yesterday that the Government Actuary's report had led to the

Report by the Government Actuary on the draft of the Social Security (Contributions, Rating) (No 2) Order 1977 (Command 7036, Stationery Office, 35p).

By a Staff Reporter

Among the courses of action being considered by defence solicitors last night are High Court writs to have convictions quashed and retrials ordered.

By Peter Hennessy may have been the need to re- it comes to in



Sir Douglas Allen represents a flintier type of Treasury man, the kind who spares neither ministers, MPs, nor fellow officials. Sir Ian is much more old-style Treasury, his courteous and courteous manner concealing a fairly deadly ability when

He gets on well with Prime Minister, who served as private secretary during his period as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

By Donald Macintyre

The union's interpretation of the motion, which said that any understanding on wages policy would be unacceptable if the system of cash limits continued, is that the public sector should not be treated less favourably

By George Clark premises. The main object be ploughed back b

the wrong road. It would again adopt the falsely seductive "planned approach".

A Conservative government would start from different

Corporation or into the hands of the National Enterprise Board, still less those of Mr Tony Benn", he said. "The money must for the most part

Peter Grimes, national organ-

Mr Grimes, aged 30, a gardener, of Wellington Way, Bow, London, admitted failing to give to the police information that he believed might have helped to prevent an act of terrorism.

Re Michael Hatfield on pay claims, some Cab

going to be pushed down to what is to be the future of pay settlements in the autumn of 1978; I have enough to get through the autumn of 1977".

Although Mr Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, in a speech yesterday welcomed the Chancellor's hint that we may have to establish a unit

Mr Steel, in his speech to the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, said that if the Government was "rightly

The discovery of radioactive contamination belatedly led to the

Islington council is calling in the National Radiological Protection Board to supervise the clearance of radioactive material, which is said to present no danger to residents in the area.

Excisemen strike

Customs officers at Humber ports are due to strike today over the Government's refusal to assess their pay in comparison with other wage earners.

NOON TO 1:00 PM



WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

BY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair:

Overseas selling prices

Austria, Sch 18:	Belgium, Bfr 28:
Canada, Pes 55:	Denmark, Dkr 4.00:
Finland, Fmk 3.25:	France, Frc 3.30:

France, FFs 3.20:
(inc TVA); Germany, Dmk 2.20:
Greece, Dr 30; Holland, Dfl 2.00:

Hongkong HK\$ 6.00; Italy, Lire 600;
Luxembourg, Lf 22; Madeira, Esc
20.00; Malta, 9cr; Norway, Kr 4.50;
Portugal, Esc 32.50; Spain, Pes 80;
Sweden, Skr 4.25; Switzerland, Sfr
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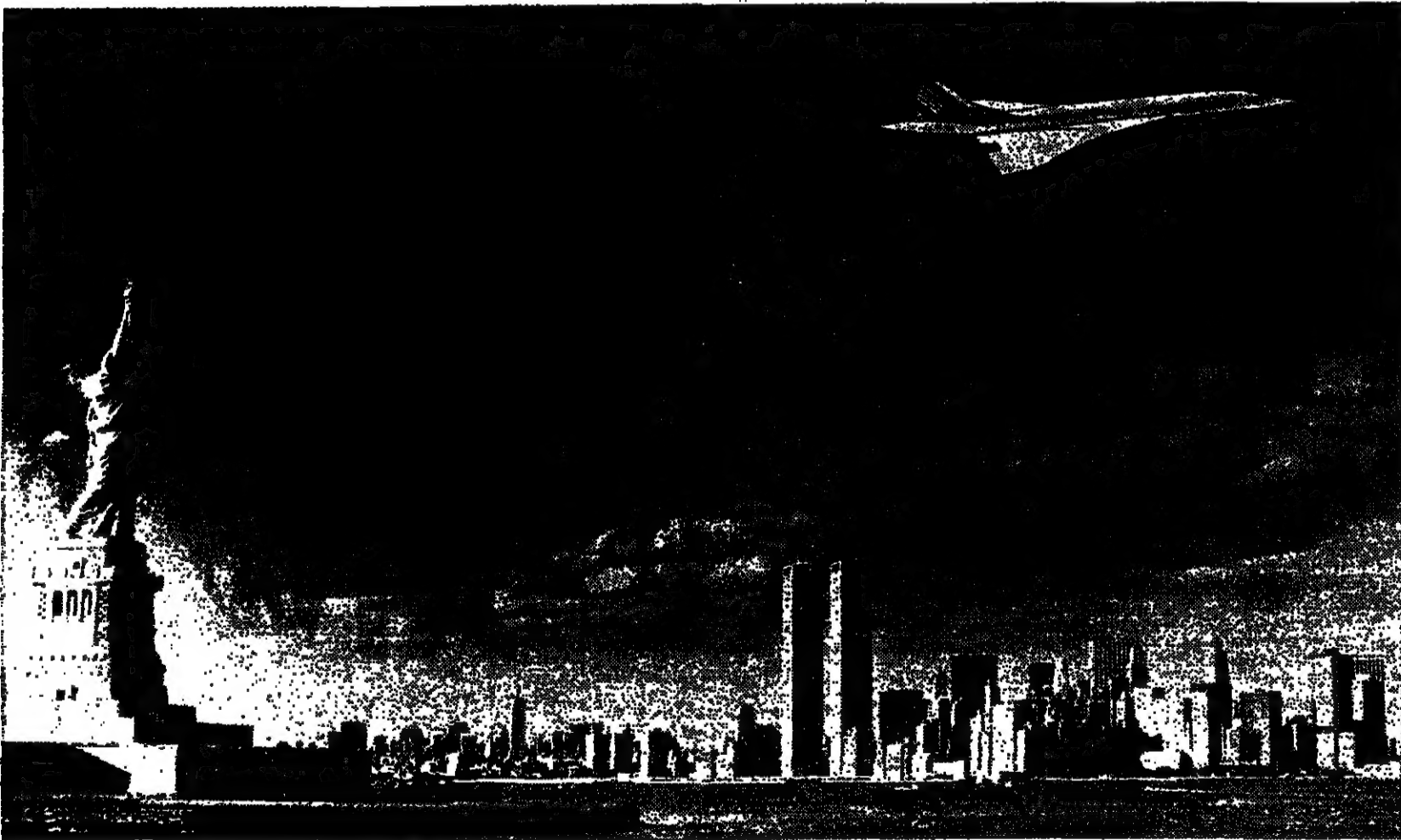
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

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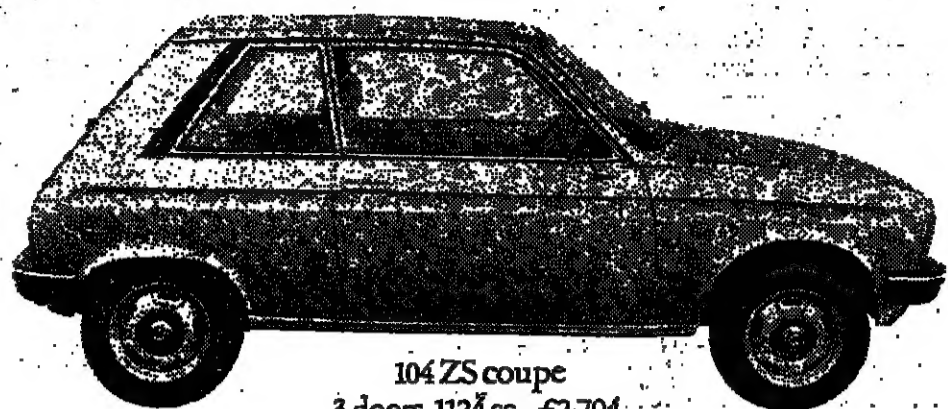


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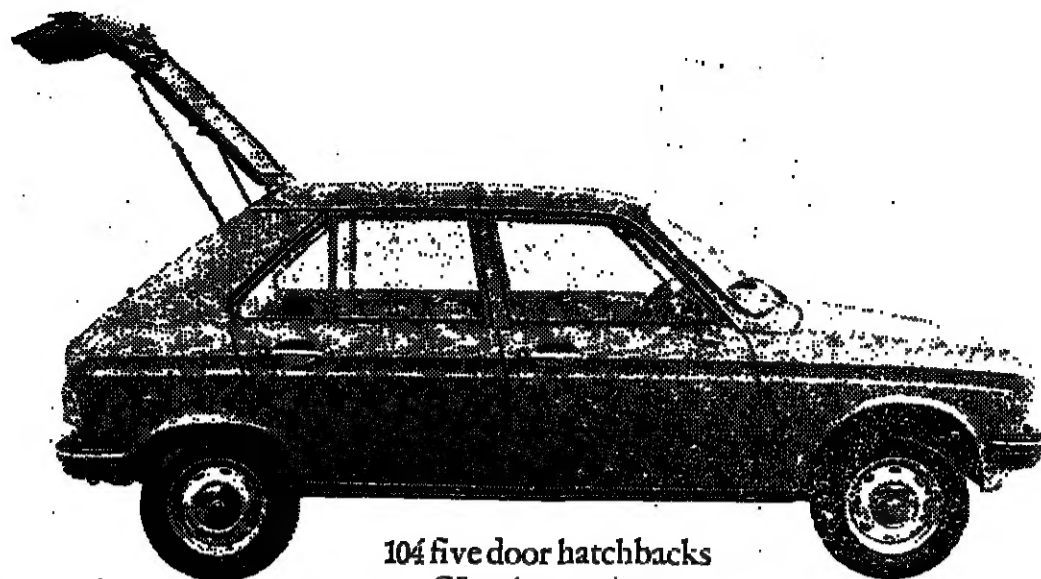
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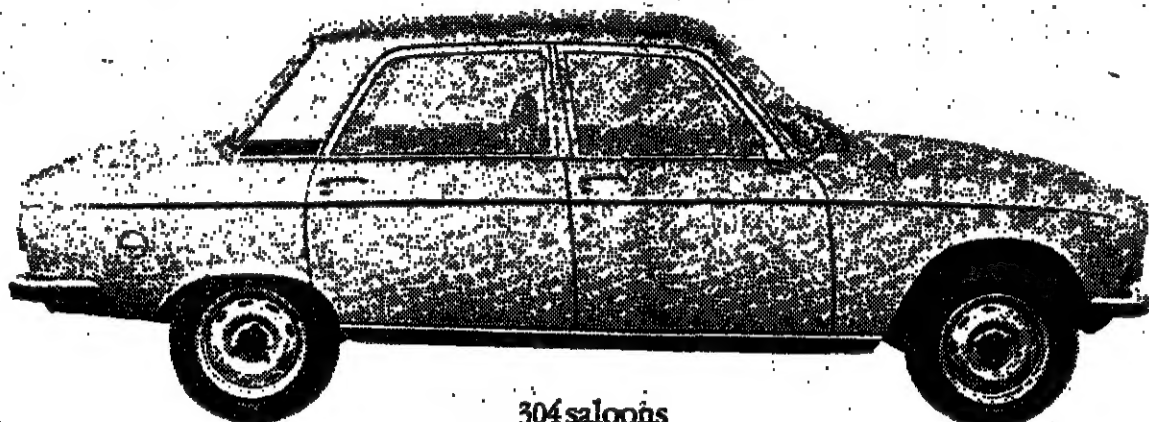
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3 doors, 1124 cc - £2,704



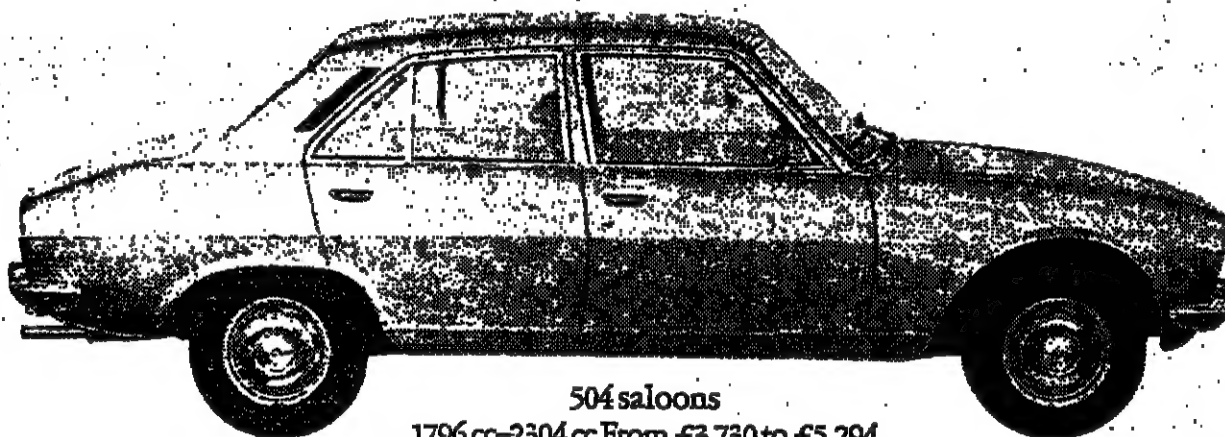
104 five door hatchbacks
GL 954 cc - £2,287
SL 1124 cc - £2,600



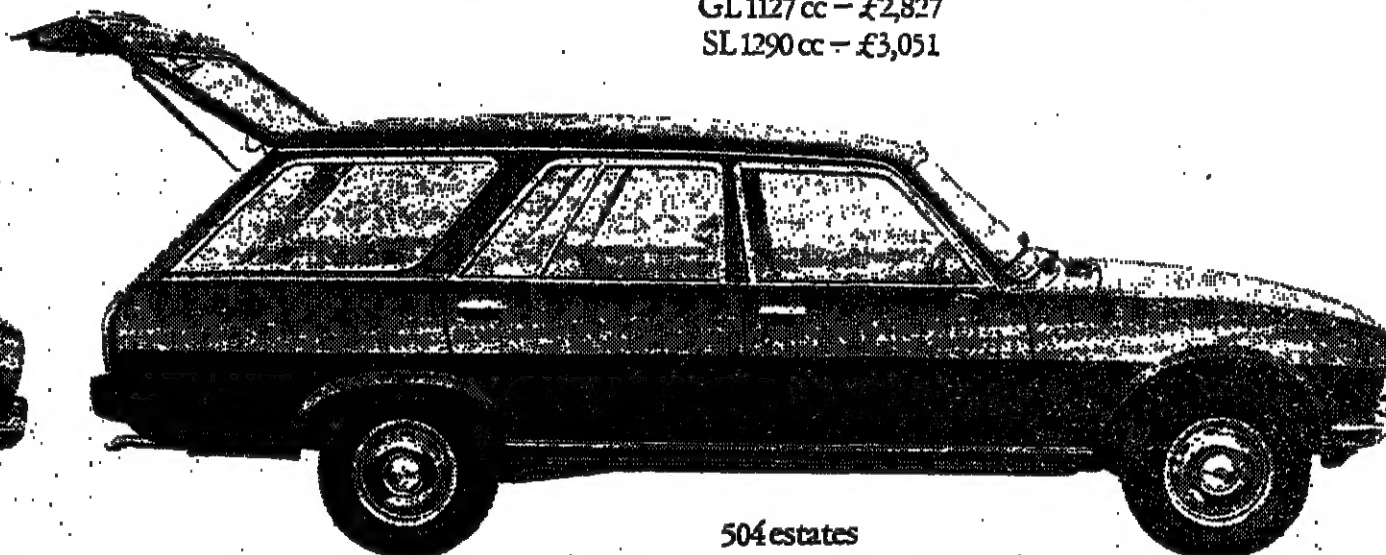
304 saloons
GL 1290 cc - £2,810
SLS 1290 cc - £3,151



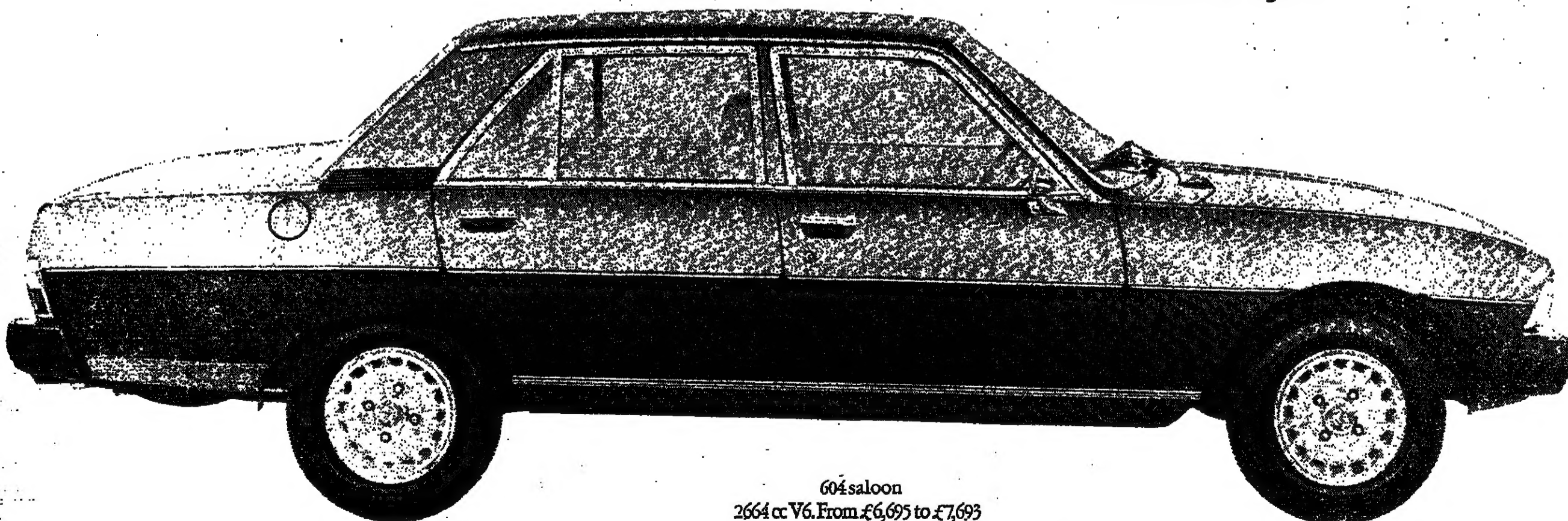
304 estates
GL 1127 cc - £2,827
SL 1290 cc - £3,051



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HOME NEWS

Basic payment of £1,000 a year proposed for councillors, with up to £3,000 more in some cases

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

A senior councillor with a large local authority could earn up to £4,000 a year under proposals published yesterday by a committee of inquiry set up by the Government.

The committee, chaired by Mr Derek Robinson, an Oxford don, recommends that every councillor on the 521 main local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland should receive a flat payment of £1,000 a year for his or her role as an elected member and to cover certain expenses.

In addition, senior members, such as main committee chairmen, would receive special responsibility payments of up to £3,000 a year.

The present system of reimbursing councillors by paying a maximum of £11 a day with attendance allowance should be abolished, the committee says. The new arrangements would include the reintroduction of a financial loss allowance.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that the Government would consider the proposals before discussing them with the local authority associations.

If implemented in full the cost of the proposed system is estimated to be about £30m. The cost of the attendance allowances in 1975-76 was £9.4m, but the committee says they have been unchanged for four years, and that an upgrading of the cost would give a figure of about £20m.

Mr Robinson said yesterday that the £30m cost, which would be paid to the taxpayer, should be seen as a proportion of the total cost of local government of about £15,000m.

The committee, which produced a unanimous report, was convinced that a strong, healthy, viable structure of local government was essential to maintain democracy.

Under the proposed changes some councillors would receive more, and some less, but the total is outside the Government's 10 per cent guideline on pay. The committee recom-

nizes that because of economic constraints the Government might find it necessary to introduce the scheme initially with a lower basic payment and a reduced scale of special responsibility payments.

As a result of reorganization the number of councillors has been reduced from 46,000 to 26,000, and a survey by the committee shows that on average they spend 79 hours a month on council activities compared with 52 hours in 1964. The survey found that three quarters of councillors are economically active, the same proportion as for the population as a whole.

Half of all councillors are employees, just over a fifth are self-employed, and almost a sixth are retired. About 7 per cent are housewives and only 2 per cent are unemployed or sick. The committee found that manual workers are still statistically greatly underrepresented. The new arrangements would include full-time salaries for councillors. "That would present too great a threat to the long established voluntary principle that plays such an important part in British public life," the report recommends the abolition of the present attendance allowance system because it has been widely misunderstood and carries the "undeniable suspicion that it encourages malpractice".

The recommendation of £1,000 a year for all councillors is estimated to be about £30m. The cost of the attendance allowances in 1975-76 was £9.4m, but the committee says they have been unchanged for four years, and that an upgrading of the cost would give a figure of about £20m.

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Population band	No of councillors (special response areas)	Cost of basic payments (£000)	Cost of special responsibility payments (£000)	Total cost (£000)
Under 50,000	1,625 (194)	1,625	145	1,770
50-100,000	9,457 (790)	9,457	790	10,247
100-400,000	10,538 (1,021)	10,538	1,531	12,069
Over 400,000	4,904 (428)	4,904	1,284	6,188
	26,524 (2,433)	26,524	3,751	30,275

Brother may seek annulment of accident verdict

The brother of a woman found dead in the cowshed of an isolated west Wales farmhouse said last night that he would consider an appeal to the Divisional Court to have the verdict of accidental death annulled.

Mr John Roberts, the Carmarthen coroner, had earlier recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mrs Rita Moffatt-Bailey of Gwralt Farm, Llan-fydd, Dyfed.

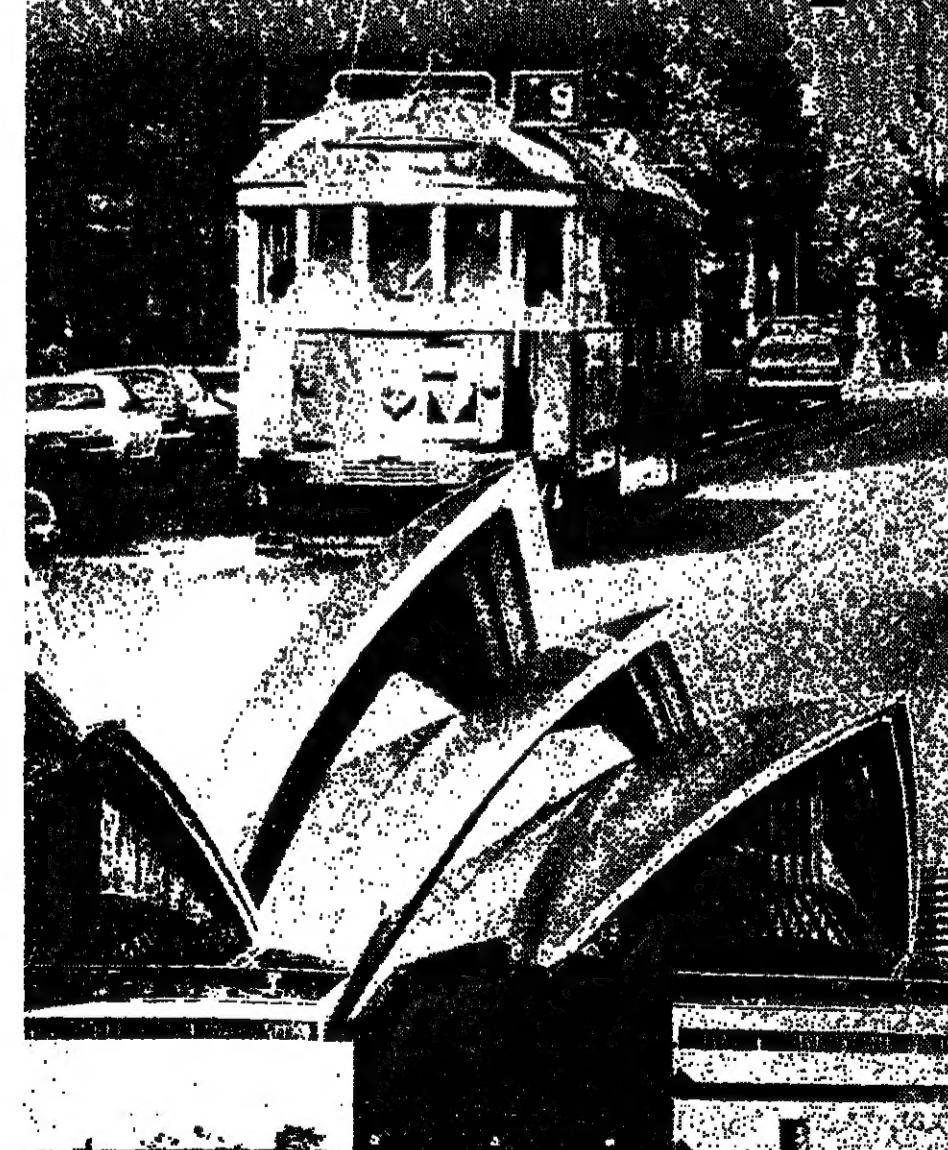
Mr Roberts said there was not the slightest evidence of foul play. He did not accept the suggestion made by Dr Bernard Knight, a pathologist engaged by the dead woman's family, that death could have occurred elsewhere than in the cowshed. He said the evidence supported his decision not to call a jury, as requested.

During the hearing, Mrs Angela van der Putte, Mrs Moffatt-Bailey's brother, walked out of the court with his family. He later complained that Dr Knight's evidence had been rejected by the coroner.

In evidence Dr Knight, reader in forensic pathology at a Cardiff Hospital, said two deep parallel wounds at the back of her head had caused Mrs Moffatt-Bailey's death. He could find nothing in the cowshed that could have caused the wounds.

Dr Owen Williams, a Home Office pathologist, said the injuries could have arisen from a fall after kick from a cow in the cowshed. He was satisfied that they had not been caused by a blow.

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Magistrates at Chichester, Sussex, who in May began fining motorists drink-and-driving offences £1 for every milligram of alcohol in the blood, have increased the scale by a tenth to meet inflation.

With only four days of the Scotland Bill committee completed, it is clear that devolution legislation will reach the House of Lords with many matters undecided. Mr Foot, Leader of the House, is threatening retribution if the Lords do their constitutional tasks too thoroughly and unduly delay the Bill.

It will not be easy for the Lords to do their duty by the Bill and still please Mr Foot if the pattern now developing continues through the 83 clauses and 17 schedules.

Perhaps more important than the clauses not reached have been the issues that could not be debated where a clause raised points for discussion.

This week, two important groups of Tory frontbench amendments on the executive functions of the assembly and the surveillance of assembly Bills went undebated while time was taken with backbench amendments to the same clauses.

Similarly, the size of the pro-

posed assembly, while the clause on the time of the election and term of office of assembly members went through without debate.

Another debate that never took place was planned for Tuesday night on Liberal proposals to give taxation powers to the Scottish assembly.

Other clauses passed without debate after four days in which the House has reached clause 22, are:

Clause 6, procedure for fixing by-election dates. Clause 7, date of first meeting of assembly to be decided by the Secretary of State.

Clause 8, procedure for assembly election of a presiding officer.

Clause 9, persons not disqualified from assembly membership because of being peer or being ordained as a minister of religion.

Clause 11, disqualification effect to be decided on assembly in vote.

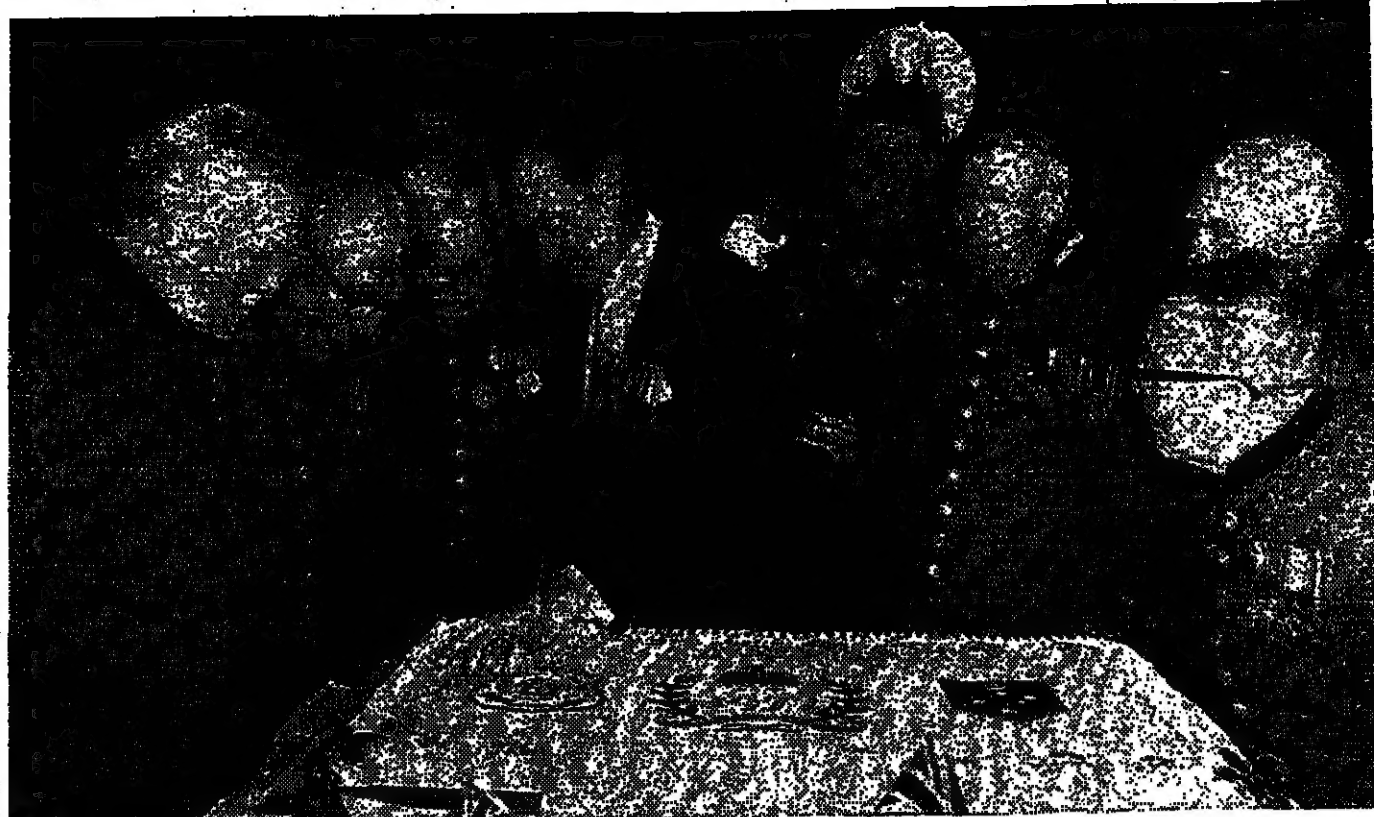
Clause 12, procedure for claiming that a person should be disqualified.

Clause 13, oath of affirmation of allegiance.

Clause 14, resignation from assembly.

Clause 16, defamatory statements: statements in assembly proceedings and documents published under assembly authority to be privileged. Clause 17, corruption to be covered by Prevention of Corruption Act.

Similarly, the size of the pro-



Mr John Rossiter, Agent-General in London for Victoria, with a Christmas cake he presented to Chelsea pensioners yesterday on behalf of ex-Servicemen in the state.

Defence chief appeals over Services' pay

By Our Air Correspondent

The chiefs of staff have taken "all the steps that are open to them" to make wage difficulties for the three Services thoroughly known to those who make recommendations about their pay, Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Chief of the Defence Staff, said in London yesterday.

Speaking at an Air League luncheon he said he was constantly struck by the quality of professionalism among all ranks. But successive defence reductions and the pay policy had placed great strain on the individual Serviceman.

"He has seen his living standards fall as prices have risen and as pay has been rigidly restrained. At the same time he has often had to face extra duties"—an allusion to the Servicemen who are taking over the duties of the striking firemen, with whom their pay compares unfavourably.

Sir Neil said the chiefs of the defence staff were working "single-mindedly" to get military salaries back to a level with their civilian counterparts, as the Government had promised.

Accused Forces' salaries had in recent years been comparable with civilian rates for only one short period during 1975. It is significant that Sir Neil should make his appeal in a week when a report from the commanding officer of the RAF West Drayton made public the fact that many of his men "moonlight" in outside jobs to make up their pay.

Mental illness man must get job back

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Surrey County Council has been ordered to reengage a temporary employee, dismissed on the ground of mental illness, in a test case regarded as a victory by Mind, the mental health organisation. It believes the ruling by an industrial tribunal at Brighton, announced yesterday, means that employers cannot dismiss employees because of past history, but must prove that mental illness is affecting the ability of the individual to do the job.

The council, which has been ordered to reengage Mr Paul Chandler, aged 24, within two months in a job at the same level and salary and to pay him compensation for loss of work, declined to comment yesterday. All future action, including the possibility of an appeal, was said to be under consideration.

The tribunal ruled that Mr Chandler had been unfairly dismissed as a laboratory technician at Horley Comprehensive School because proper medical evidence had not been shown that there had been no contact with him. The decision, which was unanimous, effectively means that employers must follow proper procedures when they consider dismissing an employee on the ground of mental illness, as they are obliged to do in other cases.

Because of his medical history Mr Chandler was initially dismissed for six months, subject to review. At first he was stated to be an excellent employee and the school and headmaster were satisfied with his work. In January last he was

absent without leave and was warned that he would be dismissed if it happened again. He did not, and in February, when his six-months' "trial" ended, the headmaster recommended that his appointment should be extended.

The recommendation said: "Mr Chandler's knowledge of chemistry is excellent. He is most useful to us and certainly is in better psychological shape than he was last September."

But in March Mr Chandler overslept one morning and failed to turn up for work that day, although he telephoned the school to say he would be in later. The next day the headmaster recommended his dismissal and Mr Chandler was given one month's notice on the ground of his mental illness.

Mr Larry Gostin, legal and welfare rights officer for Mind, who represented Mr Chandler at the tribunal, said yesterday that the real reason for the dismissal was discipline but that had been disguised as a psychiatric issue. The tribunal had accepted that argument by its ruling.

Mr Chandler, a finance clerk for a private company, said yesterday that it was an "important principle that people who have been in hospital with psychiatric difficulties in the past could not be discriminated against on that ground in future."

The ruling is expected to affect another hearing, which was adjourned in Liverpool this week until January. Mr Henry O'Brien was dismissed by the Prudential Assurance Company after disclosing his past history of psychiatric illness.

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Couple give up £120,000 in will case

A couple who maintained that evil gossip forced them to close their nursing home after a patient had left them more than £150,000 agreed yesterday to give up nearly four-fifths of the money to the family.

Mr James Willis and his wife, Margaret, formerly of Clifton Drive South, St. Ann's on Sea, Lancashire, had asked the High Court to hold the last will of Mr William O'Connell, who died in their nursing home at Lytham St. Anne's in February, 1975.

Mr William Rowland Brown, Mr O'Connell's nephew, of Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent, contested the case, contending that the signature on the will was a forgery.

Mr Justice Wilcock, QC, for Mr and Mrs Willis, said yesterday that the parties had reached a settlement. The individual gifts to Mr Brown and a £70,000 bungalow to Mrs Willis, would remain.

The residue, about £150,000 and bequeathed to Mr Willis, would be divided, leaving him only a sixth part of the estate. The other four-fifths would be held on trust for Mr Brown and his wife and four children in accordance with an earlier will made by Mr O'Connell.

Drink fines up

Magistrates at Chichester, Sussex, who in May began fining motorists drink-and-driving offences £1 for every milligram of alcohol in the blood, have increased the scale by a tenth to meet inflation.

Big devolution issues get past without debate

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

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Similarly, the size of the pro-

Taxpayers may have to foot IRA funeral bill

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Controversial legal moves are under way in Northern Ireland which, if successful, will mean that the British tax payer will have to pay for the military-style funeral given last year to Mrs Maire Drumm, former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mrs Drumm, a Belfast woman renowned for her fierce republican oratory, was murdered in October last year by gunmen posing as doctors as she lay in the ward of the Mater Hospital in Belfast. No one has been charged with the killing.

The funeral was one of the most elaborate held in the city, with a procession of more than two thousand mourners led by a traditional IRA colour party. Five men in black berets and dark glasses fired a shot over the tricolour-draped coffin before disappearing into the crowd.

Lawyers acting for Mrs Drumm's husband, James, also a prominent republican, are confident that the Government will have to meet the funeral expenses under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1968. The Northern Ireland Office has denied liability in response to a general compensation claim on behalf of Mr Drumm. But yesterday Mr Paschal O'Hara, a Belfast solicitor, said he would be launching a court case in the new year to recover the funeral expenses.

It cannot be understood why the Government has not already made an offer, he said. "Mrs Drumm was a member of a legitimate organisation when she was shot dead. It was clearly a criminal act," he said. "I believe that the section of the Act that will play a crucial part in the legal argument when the case comes to court will be that which states: 'Regard must be taken of all relevant circumstances, including any provocative or negligent behaviour of the victim.'"

County advised to sell farms

Derbyshire County Council is being recommended by its policy subcommittee to sell its farmhouses, cottages and smallholdings.

The subcommittee believes they no longer act as a gateway to farms for young people, although the Ministry of Agriculture views the widespread disposal of county council smallholdings as damaging to the industry.

More race advisers

Twelve new race relations employment advisers are to be appointed in the next few months, bringing the total to 25.

TGWU wants deals on working hours exempted

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday urged the Government to exempt agreements on a shorter working week from the 12-month rule "and any other restraint" as part of a new campaign to cut unemployment.

The proposal was part of a seven-point programme unanimously adopted by the TGWU executive to deal with "our outstanding social and economic malaise". The union says there is frightening evidence that employers and civil servants have come to accept the appalling total of 1,500,000 out of work, and are adjusting to even worse figures.

Transport workers' leaders, who influence within the TUC is strong, are also seeking a joint standing commission on unemployment, to be headed by the Prime Minister.

The TGWU executive said last night: "We have over 73,000 school-leavers under 18 years of age who have not had a job since leaving school. They are not only unemployed, they are under 19. Civilized values and healthy social attitudes cannot live with this obscenity."

The union calls on the Government to undertake a large increase in public expenditure. "Healthy reflation can and must be accelerated through big investment programmes in the National Health Service, the construction industry, and in transport, particularly the road network."

"The Government and the TUC must exempt shorter working week agreements from the 12-month rule and any other restraint. Reduced working hours are the most direct means of job-creation."

TGWU leaders also want early retirement agreements throughout the public sector, and "maximum pressure" on the private sector to prevent redundancies and increase investment.

"The TUC and the Labour Party should now promote a massive national campaign on unemployment, to make the Government and the nation conscious of the real danger facing us, and to promote aid support in every local authority, in every industry, and in every firm, all possible employment opportunities. The TUC should also hold talks with the CBI with a view to urgent action to eliminate moonlighting."

Obstacle foreseen in fear of political action by pupils

The chief obstacle to the expansion of political education in schools is likely to be the fear that it will encourage pupils to take political action, according to a Hansard Society working party on political education. It insists nevertheless that teaching pupils skills relevant to political action is an essential part of political literacy.

The working party of 13 members, chaired by Professor Bernard Crick, head of the department of politics and sociology at Birkbeck College, London, has just completed a draft report based on the findings of a three-year research project into political education, financed by a £20,000 grant from the Nuffield Foundation. A similar grant was given to fund a parallel research project at York University, under Professor Ian Liston. A report of his findings was published in The Times earlier this week.

The Crick report said if society wanted responsible citizens it would plainly have to tolerate some of the unpredictable inconveniences of action and participation. Schools could and should help make that participation informed and orderly.

Too often what political education already existed in schools was based on an arid constitutional, institutional and purely descriptive approach. That was often done out of fear of bias. But such bias was not only probable but, if it were moral beings, also unavoidable.

Part of teaching was to make pupils aware of their own biases, the biases of others, and to alert them to the implications of particular political prejudices or perspectives.

However, the school might have a great effect on how biases were held, whether peacefully and tolerantly or violently and blindly, for example; and whether, if injustice was perceived, the child was equipped to and temperamentally likely to try to do something about it.

The working party recommended a broad provision of political education in all secondary schools. That did not necessarily mean a separate class on politics

HOME NEWS

MPs say hospital doctors' judgment should be subject to Ombudsman's inquiry

By John Koger, Health Services Correspondent

Against strong arguments from the medical profession, a Commons select committee reviewing hospital patients' complaints has recommended that issues involving a doctor's clinical judgment should be referred to the Health Service Commissioner (the Ombudsman).

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the move would be detrimental to patients' treatment. The committee's report could "not" be taken as a procedure which would lead to a "revival of complaints and produce an adverse defensive attitude among doctors."

Nevertheless the profession is likely to look carefully at the proposals, which would do away with ad hoc inquiries by health authorities and provide a simple, straight-forward system of complaint in every hospital. The committee said it expected the BMA and the royal colleges to be intimately concerned in nominating advisers to the commissioner.

There will be consultations with all interested organizations on the proposals. Between 7,000 and 8,000 hospital patients' complaints a year are wholly or partly concerned with a doctor's clinical judgment.

The select committee was asked to consider how to improve complaint procedures and their possible reference to the Ombudsman after the medical profession opposed a proposal by the Davies Committee on Hospital Complaints to set up investigating panels to consider matters of clinical judgment.

Under the terms of the committee's recommendation, the commissioner would be as concerned to preserve clinicians from unfair criticism based on hindsight as with the concerns of patients and relatives. It said it could not accept the view of some doctors that clinical judgment ought to be totally immune from evaluation.

The health ombudsman rejects about ninety cases a year at present because they involve clinical judgment outside his jurisdiction. About half of all hospital complaints are wholly or partly concerned with clinical judgment.

The committee proposed that the draft code for handling complaints should be simplified placing the emphasis on listening carefully to a patient's or relative's concern, and promptly.

When a dissatisfied complainant wanted to pursue the matter the district administrator or a senior officer should deal with it on behalf of the area health authority. Health authorities should not set up ad hoc inquiries into complaints. In the most serious cases the Secretaries of State should continue to order inquiries under the relevant sections of the health services Acts.

All other cases not resolved at once or by the district administrator should be referred to the ombudsman by the complainant or by the area health authority. The commissioner's role should not be to criticize actions or judgments that, even if they turned out to be mistaken, were reasonable in the light of knowledge and information at the time. But if

anyone had suffered injustice through actions or judgments that were unreasonable in all circumstances he should recommend appropriate action and should try to ensure that useful lessons for the future should be drawn.

The report, which did not deal with the family doctor service, appeals by psychiatric patients against detention or dismissal of NHS staff, said that, considering the numbers of patients, treatments and consultations, relatively few formal complaints were made about hospital care. In 1976 there were almost 15,000 written complaints in England—about 0.3 per cent of inpatient cases.

But it said it would be wrong to be complacent because the number and rate of complaints had been growing slowly but steadily. "While we hope that the American explosion of malpractice litigation will never happen here, a change in public opinion cannot be ruled out and might lead to a much more active pursuit of legal remedies."

Arrangements for complaints were complicated, fragmented and slow, it said. Most people did not understand how to pursue a complaint because there were so many different routes. The view of community health councils was that most people were totally bewildered by the maze of avenues open to them. In difficult cases, it said, always with a clinical element, inquiry procedures had been disquieting, mostly because ad hoc committees operated in a non-judicial way.

The medical profession's grave concern about repeated

inquiries over the same ground and about the hearing of accusations of professional negligence or misconduct without legal safeguards, was well founded.

Procedures left many complainants dissatisfied, with a feeling of being fobbed off. In many cases outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction, health authorities found themselves defendants and judges and were uneasy that thereby justice was not seen to be done.

Nurses had supported the view that clinical judgment should be open to review. The committee concluded that where a patient alleged negligence and sought damages litigation was the right course. In many other cases the advantage lay with a more flexible, faster and more confidential and useful form of inquiry, provided it was scrupulously carried out.

The health commissioner's office met the requirements. He would need to be scrupulous in protecting defendants from unwarranted attacks, based on unrealistic expectations and hindsight. A main concern would be to try to help the NHS learn from every incident.

The committee said it was deeply concerned about "dubious jeopardy", where an inquiry by the commissioner could be used by a complainant as a "dry run" before litigation. One of the many difficulties of the commissioner's task would be to minimize that danger.

First report from the Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: independent review of hospital complaints in the NHS (Cmd Paper 45, Stationery Office, £5.60).

Disagreement on how to handle disrupted children Value of special units in doubt

By Our Education Correspondent

Withdrawal units for disturbed or disruptive pupils may make the return to normal classes more difficult for the child who has attended the unit. That is suggested in a report published yesterday in *Concurrence* by the National Children's Bureau based on a year's observation of such a unit at an unidentified junior school.

Eight pupils at the school, who were considered too withdrawn or disruptive for full-time attendance in normal classes, were placed in a special class in a building in the corner of the school playground and taught by a special teacher.

Carolyn Okell Jones, project officer and author of the report, says: "The class was so dissimilar to that of a normal school that it appeared to be conditioning the children to completely different patterns, with its irregular attendance throughout the week, the late morning start and early afternoon closure, the unstructured sessions and wide range of

activities from which children could choose at will."

Education authorities disagree on the aims and methods of running withdrawal units for disruptive children, although many now operate them. There has been little evaluation of their work, the report says.

The study showed differences of opinion between the education and social services in the authority concerned, and even between senior education officials and the special class teacher, on how to tackle the underlying causes of the pupils' difficulties in normal classes.

Social workers were found to concentrate on improving conditions for the pupils' families, but they often failed to tell the teacher of important plans. Education officials cautioned the teachers to stick to classroom issues and to avoid becoming involved in the children's home life.

The teacher, however, found it impossible to operate on the basis that the pupils' difficulties ended at the school gate. She therefore felt under pressure to act as a family therapist

without having any formal training or official support, and often in her own time, the report says.

It calls for better communication between education and social services of mutually useful information on pupils and their families.

The report recommends that behavioural difficulties should be identified at the earliest possible time, preferably before the child goes to school. There should also be special screening of pupils at "high risk" periods, for example when they transfer from one school to another, it says.

Recent research has shown that violent and disruptive behaviour is commoner in secondary than in primary schools, among boys than among girls, in urban than in rural areas, and among low-ability disadvantaged pupils.

On average only 4 per cent of pupils are seriously disruptive in class, with a further 10 per cent occasionally disruptive, according to one study. Concern: (National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakely Street, London, EC1, 6SP).

In brief

Speeding on the motorways

More than a third of all car drivers on motorways exceed the 70 mph speed limit, but the overall speed of cars on motorways last autumn was the same as in 1973, a report by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory states. It says petrol prices are the most important factor in restraining speed.

Fewer trees for Christmas

Fewer Christmas trees will be available for sale this year, the Forestry Commission said yesterday. Ten years ago there was a decline in demand for natural trees that resulted in a reduction in planting.

The commission is to open more than thirty forest centres selling trees direct to the public at prices between about £1 and £3.

Further remand for MP's wife

Mrs Jane Litterick, estranged wife of Mr Thomas Litterick, Labour MP, was further remanded on bail for two weeks at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, accused of causing criminal damage by fire.

Mrs Litterick, aged 44, of Quarry Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is accused of causing criminal damage at the home of Miss Pat Healy, social services correspondent of The Times.

Accelerated retirements drain police forces

By Alan Hamilton

Police forces throughout Britain are rapidly losing experienced officers through accelerated retirement, a trend likely to continue at least until the end of next year.

The departure of many long-serving men of all ranks is disclosed in a review of the annual reports of chief constables carried out by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, whose chairman is the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter.

The drain is a result of police officers' being able to count war service as years of service towards a police pension. By no means all officers who find themselves approaching pensionable age are in the senior ranks, so that the impact is directly on the uniformed branch and the patrol duties, the review says. It adds that the loss comes "just when society has taken one of those lurches into violence and

anarchy that beset some generations."

The Chief Constable of Northumbria, quoted in the review, said there were 391 assaults on his officers last year and that the younger a policeman was, the more likely he was to be assaulted. The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire said that last year he had difficulty in replacing natural wastage, far less build up his manpower; some of his officers were leaving after 25 years' service.

The Chief Constable of Derbyshire reported that probationary constables made up a fifth of his force and almost two fifths of its uniformed ground cover. A survey of 31 police districts shows that last year 3,200 officers retired on pension and 2,769 resigned. The wastage accounted for nearly 7 per cent of manpower.

The reports estimate that between last year and 1979, 15 per cent of all policemen will seek retirement, two thirds from uniformed branches.

Building pickets fined after £30,000 trial

From Our Correspondent

Rhyl

Three North Wales building pickets were convicted at Mold Crown Court on Wednesday for their part in an incident at Prestatyn on Good Friday during a dispute at Pontin's Holiday Village after an eight-day trial estimated to have cost £30,000, before Judge Hughes.

Frederick Parkinson, aged 39, of Sycamore Drive, Chester, said to have thrown the first two rocks that smashed the windscreen of a strike-breaker's lorry, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, for criminal damage, and fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £95 costs and £80 compensation. George Barry Scars, aged 36, of Llynfi Drive, Connahs Quay, said to be the pickets' leader, was fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £75 costs, Nicholas Hewitt, aged 26, of Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, was fined £50 for criminal damage, £75 for threatening behaviour, with £65 costs and £80 compensation.

Thomas Brian Williams, aged 38, of Llynfi Elwy, St Asaph, and William Steadman, aged 30, of Alfray-Pontre, Halkyn, were acquitted of threatening behaviour.

Call to put more British fish in tins

By Hugh Clayton

Metal Box, which makes most of the tins used in the British food industry, wants to increase the consumption of tinned fish from home waters.

Despite the loss of traditional fisheries through excessive catching, the home waters team with species sold in tins in Britain. Yet nine tenths of the 350 million tins of fish eaten every year are imported.

Mr Michael Keating, a marketing manager with Metal Box, said in London yesterday that although mackerel is one of the cheapest and commonest fish caught near Britain, most of the tinned mackerel we eat comes from Japan. "At the moment we get most of our mackerel from South Africa," he said, "but we have an adequate supply off the Cornish coast."

Japanese mackerel was becoming scarce because catches had been so great that the species had been unable to replace itself. Moreover, EEC rules meant that a tariff of 25p in the pound was added to prices of tinned fish that came to Britain from outside the Community.

Business diary, page 23

Mentmore inquiry may lead to reforms, peer says

By George Clark

The Mentmore sale should never have taken place, and the Government and the Treasury must bear the blame," Lord Perth, a former Conservative minister and former chairman of the Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art, told the Commons Estimates Committee in a memorandum submitted on Wednesday.

He suggested that a committee should be appointed to make an independent inquiry into the whole affair, not with a view to apportioning blame for the past but to examine the respective roles of the Treasury, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Education and Science. He believed it could recommend reforms of government machinery for saving Britain's historic houses, big and small, and works of art in general.

"In particular, they could recommend who should decide, and how, what it is to be accepted for the nation in lieu of death duties or other taxes, or saved by direct government grants or the use of the National Land Fund," he said.

"Today it is wrapped in mystery and the public has no idea where the power of decision lies or how best to bring influence to bear."

The select committee is examining the National Land Fund and also received submissions yesterday from the Commons all-party Heritage Committee, the Bow Group, Mr Hugh Jenkins, Labour MP for Putney and a former minister responsible for the arts, Mr Jasper More, Conservative MP for Ludlow, and Mr Robert Cooke, MP for Bristol, West, chairman of the Conservative backbench arts and heritage committee.

The all-party group, in its memorandum, submitted that the Mentmore crisis and later crises over the two pictures by Stubbs at the Tate Gallery, the Bellini, the Warwick Castle Candelabra, and the Queen Elizabeth portrait of Queen Elizabeth, all pointed to the need for a national contingency fund to assist organizations, such as the National Trust, or national and provincial museums to step in when heritage properties, or works of art of great national importance, were to be sold.

The MPs urged that the fund should be re-constituted as the National Heritage and Land Fund and that, over a period of five years, it should be restored to at least its original sum (£50m).

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The Montcalm, London

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in its efficiency and traditional in its impeccable standards of service. Great Cumberland Place, London W1. 01-402 4288.

The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, London

You can't miss this splendid hotel. It's 18 storeys high, circular with glare-proof windows—and beautiful views across Hyde Park. The 295 guest rooms are extra large and luxurious, with colour television, individual air and heat controls, and 24 hour room service. You can choose between several restaurants and bars—the Rotunda Cocktail Bar, Le Café Jardin, a coffee shop-restaurant which is open 24 hours a day, the Trianon haute cuisine restaurant, plus three private luncheon and dining rooms. It's the peak of hotel living! 101 Knightsbridge, SW1. 01-235 8050.

The Norfolk Continental Hotel, Brighton

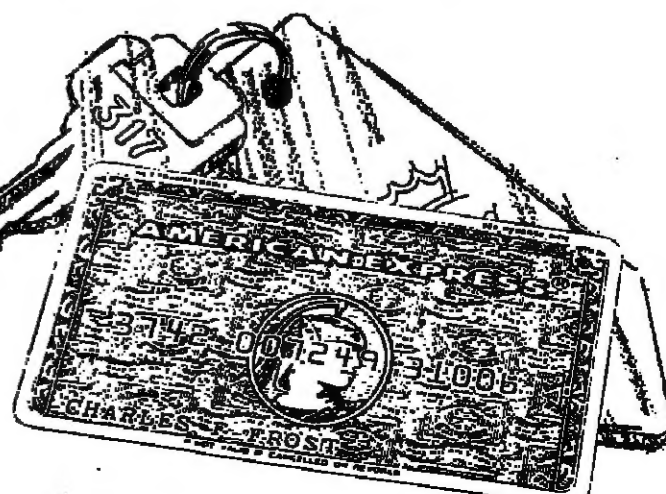
At this magnificent hotel facing the sea, you'll find the ultimate in luxury, in surroundings, food, wine and service. Original chandeliers light the pillared Regency hall with its graceful staircase and the splendid Crystal Room, where superb food is served in golden surroundings. There's also an informal coffee shop overlooking the sea, an American Bar with a terrace for fine weather, and the 19th century Mews Bar with its English pub atmosphere—one of Brighton's most popular meeting

places. The 76 rooms all have private baths and showers, television and radio. The Norfolk is owned and run by a family, who personally supervise every detail, so the service is particularly friendly, efficient and courteous. Kings Road, Brighton. 0273 738201.

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HOME NEWS

Post Office chairman urges battle against declining standards

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday urged resumption of a Sunday letter service and a cheap postage rate for next Christmas.

At the end of his first month as head of the corporation, he called on Post Office staff to "lead a battle against the general decline in standards and services."

Sir William said he was impressed with the experience, expertise, technical professionalism and loyalty of most employees. "I now want to see that resumption to improve our service to customers. That is crucial," he said.

In reversing downward trends he would "not allow anyone to think in terms of increasing prices unless all other avenues have been explored and exhausted."

Neither will I allow reductions in service without full regard to the damage this can do to customer relationships. I want the Post Office to consider again the kind of letter service which could be provided on Sunday... perhaps even a review of the whole question of weekend services".

He wanted codes of practice that were really helpful to customers. "I want us to look in real terms about the possibility of a cheap postage rate for Christmas, 1978. I want

Acid gushes into river after fatal M1 crash

From Our Correspondent Northampton

The river Nene was polluted with hydrochloric acid yesterday after a fatal motorway crash involving a tanker. Two people were killed and seven others injured in the crash on the M1 near Watford Gap.

The 4,000 gallon tanker was involved with six other vehicles in a multiple accident on the northbound carriageway, causing the acid to gush into a stream at the rate of 10 gallons a minute.

Part-time firemen tried to dilute the acid, but soon dead fish were seen in the stream and the Nene.

Anglian Water Authority experts built a dam and a lime filter to try to kill off traces of the acid, but could not stop the river pollution. Domestic water supplies were declared safe. Farmers were warned to keep livestock away from the water for at least a week.

Five policemen were treated in hospital for the after-effects of the fumes. The driver of the lorry that crashed into the tanker was in danger from the fumes while firemen worked for two hours to free him.



Hill memorial: Mrs Bette Hill, widow of Graham Hill, who was killed in an aircraft crash two years ago, receiving a cheque for £10,000 from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the Graham Hill Appeal Fund, at a dinner at Guildhall, London, last night. The money will pay for a rehabilitation centre for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, at Stanmore.

Teachers wary on accountability

By Diana Geddes

Teachers are wary of government moves to promote the "accountability" of schools by expanding the testing and assessment of pupils according to an editorial in *Secondary Education*, the journal of the National Union of Teachers, published today.

While supporting a growth in the assessment and testing of pupils under teachers' control, it says assessment and accountability should be kept separate.

Move to end students' Jewish-Arab conflict

By Annabel Ferriman

Feelings are likely to run high this weekend when the Jewish-Arab conflict in the universities is discussed at the National Union of Students' conference in Blackpool, which opens today. Because of decisions by some students' unions to ban Jewish societies from the Union of Jewish Students and the General Union of Palestinian Students that debates around the issues raised in the Middle East conflict "should take place within a free and open atmosphere."

"No limitations on the rights of Jewish or Palestinian students or Jewish or Palestinian societies, whether they are religious, political or social groupings, should be commended," they say. Both the societies pledge themselves to work with the NUS.

But those promises alone are not enough, according to Miss Susan Shuman, the NUS president. "The Palestinian students have reached a decision nationally that they will not discriminate against Jewish societies. We respect their sincerity, but their

University had reversed its decision to deprive its Jewish society of students' union support and that could be effected elsewhere if the NUS and the Palestinians got together, he said.

The Union of Jewish Students was pleased that the NUS wanted to suspend unions that discriminated. Mr Moshe Foreman, its president, said yesterday that the ban on Jewish students' activities in union premises set a dangerous precedent.

Although only two unions still had policies of restricting Jewish societies, eight had passed motions equating Zionism with racism. They were the polytechnics of Middlesex, Manchester, Teesside and Central London, Essex University, and the university colleges of Swansea, Bangor and Cardiff.

Those motions, combined with the NUS policy of not allowing a platform to racist and fascist speakers meant that those institutions could effectively refuse speaking rights to any Zionist speaker.

WEST EUROPE

Hospitals hit by power cuts as left-wing unions strike in protest against Barre austerity

From Ian Murray Paris, Dec 1

France's left-wing trade unions called their members out on general strike for the second time this year in protest against the austerity measures of the Barre Government. Both the main unions, the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFTD were involved, as was the militant teaching unions, the FEN.

There were fewer strikers this time than during the last stoppage on May 24 when an estimated 10 million joined the protest. According to the employers' organisation, an average of only 10 per cent failed to report for work today in the private sector, and it was impossible to tell how many of those did not turn up because of the difficulties in getting to work.

There were a higher proportion of strikers in the public sector, which is much more unionised. About 80 per cent of teachers were on strike, although child minders were at work to look after the schoolchildren. The other main target of the strikers was the electricity supply, and there were many cuts throughout the day, including several affecting hospitals and clinics.

In Paris, which was the worst-hit area, there was no mail and

no newspapers, but most of the buses and 70 per cent of the underground trains were running.

The unions, predictably, called the day a successful protest. The employers, equally predictably, claimed it had failed.

The political motivation of the stoppage had the paradoxical effect of keeping the left-wing parties completely out of the picture. With the elections looming and the Communists and Socialists still far from reaching an electoral agreement, the party leaders clearly did not want to be involved in a strike that failed.

The most successful part of the strikers' day, apart from the electricity cuts, was probably the demonstration in Paris. Demonstrators began assembling in the Place de la Nation at 10 am and two hours later left in procession on the traditional march to the Place de la République, two miles away straight up the Boulevard Voltaire. They marched 15 abreast, chanting and singing under their banners, and the whole parade went on until nearly 3 pm.

Police estimated the crowd to be 35,000 strong but the unions estimate was that 200,000 took part.

Le Harve, Dec 1.—The crew of a French Channel car ferry today barricaded passengers on board an incoming British boat for two hours in protest against a plan by Normandy Ferries to dismiss 29 of them or operate the ship Leopard under the British flag from January 1.

The French crew, who came out on strike yesterday, used cars to block the unloading ramp of the Viking Veamur, owned by Townsend-Thoresen, when it arrived from Southampton.

The men voted to stop work for 24 hours after their union leaders rejected terms for keeping the Leopard under the French flag which would have involved the loss of 29 jobs among the 134-man crew. Last night, the strikers delayed the landing of passengers from the Leopard's sister ship Dragon which sailed under the British flag.

Normandy Ferries decided initially to transfer the Leopard to the British flag because the fall in the pound had led to an increase in its operating costs as a French boat. In face of union protests the company agreed that ship could remain French provided the unions accepted a reduction in the size of the crew.—Agence France Presse.

Talks start on closing EEC-Japan trade gap

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Japan and the EEC opened two days of trade talks here today with the personal problem of the growing Japanese surplus on trade with the community at the centre of the stage.

It is estimated that the Nine will have a deficit in trade with Japan this year of \$800m (\$2,200m) compared with \$4,200m in 1976. EEC exports to Japan this year are not expected to cover more than 39 per cent of the value of its imports from the community, compared with 43 per cent last year and 67 per cent in 1973.

This very low import coverage ratio is even more worrying to the EEC than the size of the deficit. The European Commission, negotiating on behalf of the Nine, is sceptical about the promises of renewed efforts by Japan, following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, to make access easier for European products.

One of the EEC's main complaints is that manufactured goods account for no more than 20 per cent of Japan's imports, a trading partner to the detriment of a developing country. European products that are competitive with domestically-produced Japanese goods often face almost insuperable barriers, it is claimed.

Among the European products for which the Commission considers there is a potential, but which are unreasonably restricted, are cars, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, processed agricultural goods and footwear.

There is a suspicion in Brussels that such measures as may be taken by the Japanese will mainly be designed to improve access for imports of American raw materials and agricultural goods. The United States has been keeping very quiet on the Japanese, one EEC official said.

Mr Hiromichi Miyazaki, a Deputy Foreign Minister leading the Japanese delegation, told Commission officials that Japan's announcement this week in Geneva of its support for a 40 per cent cut in industrial tariffs over eight years was evidence of its political good will.

He played down the rapid rise in the value of the yen had reduced Japan's competitiveness.



Vatican handshake between the Pope and Mr Giersek.

Pope offers support to Poland

From Peter Nichols Rome, Dec 1

The Pope had an unexpectedly protracted audience today with Mr Edward Giersek, the Polish leader, during which he said that the Roman Catholic Church was ready to make its contribution to the progress of Polish society.

He told Poland's Communist Party chief "For itself, the Catholic Church does not ask privileges but only the right to be itself and the possibility to carry out unimpeded its own action which is its own by virtue of its constitution and its mission."

The two men were together for an hour and a quarter in the private library. Few audiences involving communist personalities can have brought such personal cordiality.

The Pope, recently, 60 months ago as a young priest in the Warsaw nunciature (this was in 1923). The mere fact that his guest was from Poland was, he said, sufficient to make him welcome.

For his part, Mr Giersek spoke of the profound respect which the Polish people felt towards the Pope, whose goodness is recognised by both the temporaries and will be appreciated by history.

Outside the Vatican, Mr Giersek was still expressing himself as well satisfied. On specific points, he was more guarded. This was a question, he said, of establishing diplomatic relations between Poland and the Holy See in the near future. He spoke well of Cardinal Wyszyński, the Polish primate, but said that "elements of controversy exist, as in any normal family."

This did not mean to say, he went on, that relations were bad. "The Catholic Church and Polish Catholics are together with us in pursuit of one single objective: to contribute to the progress of the common good of the country and peace between peoples."

Mr Giersek's visit was the first by a leader of the Polish party to the Vatican. This in itself would have given it high importance. It has certainly shown the extent of the need felt by the Polish Government for some degree of collaboration in Poland from the Catholic hierarchy.

At the same time, the Pope, for all his courteous and tactful warmth, was clear in laying down what the church's contribution could and should be and what he felt the church could properly claim in return.

He reminded Mr Giersek that throughout the thousand years of Polish history the activity of the church had been conducted in a positive way in the interests of the nation both in the religious field and outside it.

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£4m of television equipment unused because of unions

By Kenneth Gooling

At least £4m of new television equipment is lying idle because it has been "blacklisted" by unions, Mr Robin Scott, deputy managing director of BBC Television, complained yesterday.

Mr Scott, who was delivering the Shakespeare Memorial Lecture to the Royal Television Society, said the equipment was being withheld from the independent television companies that for the BBC, London Weekend Television, Granada and Anglia were particularly affected.

Anglia, for example, has a number of videotape recorders and lightweight cameras which cannot go into service. Old equipment that had become out-of-date had to be used in its place.

to give careful examination to the problem, in good time."

Unions must not cloud the issue by using the blacklisting of equipment as a device to secure unwarranted advantages over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC, London Weekend Television, Granada and Anglia were particularly affected.

Anglia, for example, has a number of videotape recorders and lightweight cameras which cannot go into service. Old equipment that had become out-of-date had to be used in its place.

Son cleared of manslaughter

Peter Jackson, aged 43, accused of killing his elderly mother after learning that she had been unfaithful with a milkman more than forty years ago, was cleared at Winchester Crown Court yesterday of manslaughter.

Mr Jackson, of Queens Grove, Farnborough, was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, for assault, which he admitted.

Apology by two playwrights

John Arden and his wife Margaretta D'Arcy, the playwrights, apologised in the High Court yesterday to a retired Royal Navy commander who complained that he was portrayed as an unscrupulous landowner in one of their plays.

Commander Richard Burgess, aged 75, an estate agent of Broadbridge Mill, Bosham, Sussex, sued the two writers, both of Corundulla, Headford, Co Galway, for libel in *The Ballgobbeen Beguist*.

Health chief is cleared

Mr Norman Derby, administrator of Somerset Area Health Authority, has been cleared of an allegation that he used the ambulance service for travelling 30 miles on a personal errand.

The accusation was made by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which said there had been a gross misuse of ambulance resources in the county. An inquiry team said yesterday that there could be no criticism of Mr Derby or of the ambulance service.

Johnny Walker get bottle ban

The makers of Johnny Walker whisky got an order in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, yesterday, stopping another company from selling whisky in similar bottles.

The temporary order granted to John Walker and Sons Ltd, of St James's Street, London, stops D. R. Allan and Company, of Reform Square, Campbelltown, Strathclyde, selling, offering for sale or exporting whisky that is not Walker's in similar bottles.

Brighton lottery suspended

Brighton's town lottery has been suspended after a complaint by an American company that the design of the tickets infringes copyright. The promoter, Securix Ltd, said all sales would be stopped until the legal position was clear. The system used in the Brighton scheme was believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Footballer banned

Ray Hankin, aged 21, the Leeds United footballer, was banned from driving for a year and fined £120 by magistrates at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, yesterday after admitting a drink-driving charge.

Modernism

Michael Long reviews a new collection of essays on modernism in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Lord Todd, O.M., tells Clive Cookson who he still believes it was a mistake to expand the universities, and Professor Max Beloff argues that the University Grants Committee should be abolished.

Detective jailed

Det. Constable Peter Sandring, aged 25, of Duxton, Northamptonshire, was jailed for six months by Northampton magistrates yesterday for stealing from fellow officers.

Views unaltered by nuclear debate

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Three days of "open discussions" on the role of nuclear power in meeting the EEC's energy needs concluded here today without either side in the debate making any concession or showing any willingness to alter its position in the rightness of its cause. The discussions were organized by the European Commission.

Herr Guido Brunner, the EEC commissioner responsible for energy policy, said it would be hypocritical to pretend that the Commission's support for large-scale investment in nuclear energy, and particularly in the controversial fast-breeder, would be modified overnight by what he had heard. But he believed the discussions had served a useful democratic function by stimulating public debate.

The European Environment Bureau, which put up a number of speakers strongly critical of the Commission's energy policy, accepted that the discussions had been "a partial success". They had shown that "it was possible to have sensible and serious public debate on an extremely controversial issue at a European level."

The bureau, which represents more than 40 environmental organizations, said that it hoped the Commission would show that it had heard as well as listened to what had

been said during the discussions. It was clear that "substantial arguments against the Commission's current energy policy remain unanswered."

The building of fast-breeder reactors should be postponed indefinitely, the bureau said, and there was no reason for further expansion of existing thermal reactors or a commitment by a combination of policies, including the development of solar, wind and other environmentally acceptable technologies.

The pro-nuclear case was put strongly today by Mr J. Moore, of Britain's Atomic Energy Authority. Over the last 21 years, he said, nuclear power had simply demonstrated its capability of operating at least as reliably as fossil fuel, and in most situations at lower costs.

Current designs of nuclear plants used only 1 per cent of the energy potential of uranium, whereas fast-breeder reactors could use 60 per cent, Mr Moore said. The prize now was to develop a reactor that could produce as much energy as from at least two million tons of coal.

The three days of discussions concentrated on the economic case for nuclear power. The safety and environmental aspects of nuclear energy, and the plutonium fuel cycle associated with fast-breeder development, will be

the main focus of attention at the second session of the discussions planned for the end of the year.

Two broad views emerged during the three days of discussions. On the anti-nuclear side, the Commission's estimates of the cost of electricity from the future energy demand, which were held to be grossly exaggerated, it was further asked how the present commitment of 30 per cent of all research and development expenditure in the energy sector to one technology, the fast-breeder, could be justified.

been given to alternative energy sources, such as sun, wind and wave power. By putting all its "research eggs into the fast-breeder basket", as a British expert put it, the EEC was effectively foreclosing other options by securing them of the necessary funds. The suitability of nuclear power to replace oil and gas was also questioned.

Those speakers who supported the Commission saw an inexorably widening gap between the EEC's energy needs and supplies which could only be met by an expanded programme of nuclear-generated electricity. Because the EEC was almost entirely dependent on imports for its supplies of oil, there was no alternative to fast-breeder, which would eventually breed their own fuel and make the Community self-sufficient.

هكذا ان الاصل

OVERSEAS

Rhodesia settlement talks to go ahead in Salisbury without Bishop Muzorewa taking part

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Dec 1

Constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and the incoming black nationalist government will begin here tomorrow without Bishop Muzorewa and his delegation from the United African National Council.

The bishop has gone into a week's mourning in anger over the killing last week of more than 1,200 guerrillas by Rhodesian security forces today on the Chimoino and Tembue camps in Mozambique.

The talks will proceed because Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, says there is an urgent need to make progress towards peace in Rhodesia. A Government spokesman said today there could be no further delay.

The other two African nationalist organisations, the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation and the Shitolwe Organisation, said they would be sending representatives. If the organisation with the biggest black following, the UANC, was not represented at the outset, this was unfortunate.

"We could go on for ever with one delay after another, but not this time," the spokesman said. "The talks will start on Friday as announced by the Prime Minister."

The initial meeting will deal with procedural matters and is expected to last for more than an hour tomorrow afternoon at a place yet to be announced. The broad principles of the negotiations are expected to be outlined, and agenda drawn up and work then allocated to committees to handle details.

The Government has been preparing for such a conference for some months with much groundwork on constitutional matters being done by an expert team headed by Mr. George Smith, the Government's Chief legal draftsman.

Mr Smith has already conceded the principle of majority rule before this court, and provided the other side accepted the need for safeguards for

minority groups, which all three factions have accepted. The Shitolwe delegation will be headed by Dr Elliott Gubbels, its vice-president, as the Rev Nkomo's Shitolwe is still in the United States.

Senator Chief Chirau will head the Zupco delegation. Mr David Makome, publicity secretary of the UANC, said today that Mr Smith's callous disregard for this organisation's week of mourning would prejudice the successful outcome of the talks.

Mr Smith was under the illusion that he was going to use the UANC to manoeuvre a settlement for his purpose, he should think again, Mr settlement was possible unless it was endorsed by the UANC.

In an interview with the Rhodesian Herald, published today, Mr Smith said that more than anything else in the world he wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. With goodwill and the cooperation of those who felt the same way, there was a real chance of success.

It would not be an easy process and dramatic results could not be expected in the early stages, he said. Asked, in the light of settlement moves, what the objective was of the recent raids into Mozambique, he said the urgent need for talks did not preclude Rhodesia defending itself against attempts by the Frelimo Front to take over the country by force.

The raids had dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had declared itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's claim that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children was wrong. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organisation was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia.

Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, at least while the operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and militated against peace efforts.

Their attitude was clearly shown by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America," he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticising the real aggressor."

The British and American contribution towards peace so far has been negligible. All we have had is talk and delay. At least we in Rhodesia are getting to grips with the problem."

Maputo, Dec 1.—Two Belgian airmen have been captured by the Mozambique Army after they were shot down in Tete province, the Defence Ministry said today.

A statement said the aircraft belonged to the Zaire-based company Acan Line and that the airmen were on their way from Salisbury to Lourenco-bashi in Zaire with a consignment of meat when shot down. The aircraft had violated Mozambique's airspace four times last month, — Agency France-Press.

Sudden Sadat visit to Israel upset Jordan monarch's preparations Admiration and annoyance by King Husain

From Edward Mortimer
Amman, Dec 1

King Husain of Jordan today expressed great admiration for Egypt and for President Sadat, but also showed annoyance that Mr Sadat had upset the delicate preparations for the Geneva conference by suddenly announcing his visit to Israel without consulting or informing other Arab leaders.

He himself, he said, would not go to Jerusalem in any foreseeable circumstances.

He repeated that Jordan would not attend any pre-Geneva conference whether in Cairo or New York, unless all the other parties attended, but said he would not take part in any campaign against Mr Sadat either.

Jordan would not take part in any restricted summits such as today's meeting in Tripoli, but would attend an Arab summit conference attended by all Arab states.

Speaking at a press conference in the royal palace, King Husain praised Mr Sadat's "great moral courage" in going to Israel and present-

ing the Arab case there "in a way which we do not see". He described Mr Sadat as a man who had devoted most of his life to the Arab cause, and as "the hero of the crossing of the Suez Canal", which was the greatest victory of the Arabs in modern times. He paid generous tribute to the sacrifices made by Egypt for the Palestinian cause "throughout many years".

On the other hand, he did not conceal his distress at the way Mr Sadat had taken his decision. "The fact is," he said, "that just before the announcement of the visit I was personally involved in a great deal of activity. I visited Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, then Syria again, talking about what could be done to get all the parties to meet, including the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) at that stage, to discuss Geneva and what the Arab attitude should be—and then the surprise occurred."

He had felt, he said, "that we were close to a meeting to prepare the Rab position", and he could not deny that "there

is some setback in what has occurred". It should be "possible for Arab leaders at least to inform each other about actions, which they consider to be in the best interest of the Arab cause." In this case, Mr Sadat's action had come as a total surprise.

On the Cairo conference and on Dr Waldheim's proposals for a New York conference, King Husain explained there was no point in Jordan attending a meeting which was not attended by "other parties more directly involved than us", ie Syria and the Palestinians.

He also reaffirmed his acceptance of the Rabat Arab summit in 1974 recognising the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but when asked whether in the event of the PLO refusing to attend the Geneva conference Palestinian interests could be represented by anyone else, he replied: "I believe it is up to the Palestinians to determine what is the best course they should follow." He certainly hoped

the Palestinians would be adequately represented.

The king emphasized repeatedly that President Sadat had gone to Jerusalem entirely on his own responsibility, and added that he could not see "any circumstances under which I could make such a visit."

Mr Sadat had "gone as far as any of us can". He believed that "following the visit, no one in the world can say that the Arabs are not prepared to go to the limit in search of a just and lasting peace."

But, he added, the basis for such a peace was very clear to the Israelis already. He had said for a long time that the decision to make peace was now up to the Israelis, and "up to now I haven't seen any encouraging signs."

He had very serious doubts about the Israeli attitude on the West Bank and Jerusalem, he said, pointing to Mr Begin's statements both before and after President Sadat's visit, and to the announcement of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

National Party gains many English-speaking voters

Continued from page 1

a sectional party of English-speakers in Natal.

The day SAP has reason to feel reasonably satisfied as it won three of the seven seats it contested. However its leader, Mr Myburgh Streicher, was ousted by the PFP.

The election was an unmitigated disaster for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party. Far from making inroads into the NP's conservative Afrikaans power base, the party was humiliated by mass NP victories and all but two of its candidates lost their deposits.

As expected, the NP won over large numbers of English-speaking voters particularly in lower and middle income areas. These voters had previously supported the UP.

Rejectionist Arab summit postponed until today

From David Watts
Tripoli, Dec 1

The summit meeting in Tripoli of Arab rejectionist leaders began to take on substance this afternoon with the arrival of President Boumedienne of Algeria and President Assad of Syria.

The arrival of the Iraqi delegation soon afterwards showed, however, that Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had been only partially successful in persuading Baghdad to support the summit. President Bakr of Iraq did not come, but sent a delegation of the Revolutionary Command Council, led by Mr Ishaq Yassin Ramadan, as his representative, and included Mr Saddam Hamzadi, the Foreign Minister.

The conference was postponed until tomorrow morning because the South Yemen delegation did not arrive in time. The Iraqis were quickly followed by Mr Arafat himself who brought a strong PLO delegation including Mr Abu Iyad, who is now the military commander of Fatah.

Dr George Habash, the Christian physician and rejectionist hard-liner, flew into an almost informal welcome last night.

Tripoli streets are daubed with cartoons reviling President Sadat. One shows him squatting over a street drain with the Star of David pendant round his neck.

Bus loads of workers moved into Tripoli's main square to hail the summit. As darkness fell carefully rehearsed crowds chanted slogans.

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Party	%	Seats	1974
National United	64.8	134 (116)	120
United Progressive	11.8	10 (25)	7
South Africa PFP	16.7	17 (18)	7
HNP	3.2	0 (0)	0
Vacancies	—	1 (2)	—

Note: The South Africa Party was formed at the beginning of 1977 by six MPs who broke away from the United Party. The New Republic Party was formed in September 1977 after the dissolution of the former Progressive and Reform Parties together with six members of the United Party.

Effect on the blacks, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Call for Biko verdict against security police

From Marcel Berlins
Pretoria, Dec 1

A verdict that Steve Biko died as the result of a criminal assault on him by one or more of eight members of the security police in whose custody he was on September 6 and 7 has been called for by Mr Sydney Kenridge, counsel for Mr Biko's family.

He was making his final submission to the magistrate, Mr Marilinus Prins, on the fourteenth day of the inquest into Mr Biko's death on September 12.

Mr Kenridge said the probabilities were that the injuries from which Mr Biko died were inflicted deliberately, unlawfully, and without good cause. Those responsible were guilty of at least the crime of culpable homicide.

He was not submitting that Mr Biko had been killed fully in the sense that whoever assaulted him wanted him to die, but that the person or persons who had beaten him did not care whether he was seriously injured or not.

The inquest had exposed grave irregularity and misconduct in the treatment of a single detainee, Mr Kenridge said. "It has incidentally revealed the dangers to life and liberty involved in the system of holding detainees incommunicado," he added.

"A firm and clear verdict may help to prevent further abuse of the system. If the light of further disquieting evidence before this court, any verdict which can be seen as an exoneration of the Port Elizabeth security police will unfortunately be interpreted as a licence to abuse a helpless people with impunity."

Mr Kenridge said there was no direct evidence that any particular policeman had assaulted Mr Biko. That was because some of the security police had closed their ranks.

Police witnesses had given a "mass" false evidence," he said. There could be no reason for that unless there was some circumstance connected with

Mr Biko's injuries that the police wanted to hide.

They had not given a satisfactory explanation of how Mr Biko's injuries occurred; indeed, they had given false evidence about the events of September 6 and 7. The inference of guilt was strengthened.

During his four-hour address, Mr Kenridge served his most venomous criticism for two security police officers, Colonel Piet Coosen and Major Harold Strydom, and two doctors who had examined Mr Biko. Dr Ivor Lang and Dr Benjamin Tucker.

The doctors, he said, had joined the security police in the conspiracy of silence about Mr Biko's condition. The relationship of those two district surgeons to Colonel Coosen, the security police chief of the area, "was one of subservience, bordering on collusion."

"Their obvious neglect of their patients' interests and their deference to the requirements of the security police was a breach of their professional duty, which may have contributed to the final result," he said.

Their studied lack of curiosity about Mr Biko's condition could be explained only by their being in active collaboration with the police or by a deliberate election not to embarrass the police or themselves by asking questions to which the answers were obvious.

The police, perhaps strengthened by their justified confidence that they could rely on the doctors to support them, presented to the court, with "gross impudence," a totally implausible account of Mr Biko's death.

It included "a fanciful description of a struggle, violent in the extreme, in which no blow was struck, a bizarre account of an alleged shamming when to any candid observer a progress to his death was being seen and described, and all the while the refusal to acknowledge the head injury."

Tate & Lyle challenge ATV on S Africa film

By Kenneth Gossling

Tate and Lyle, the sugar refiners, are challenging sequences in a film to be shown by Associated Television, the independent television company, as part of a series about life and conditions in South Africa.

At a press conference last night, the company produced affidavits which, it said, proved that people questioned on the company's estate in Natal had given pre-arranged answers.

Mr Kit Hlobay, public relations officer for Tate and Lyle, said that the company had spent four months checking the affidavits which, he added, "and their agreement to withdraw any statements about us."

"The four documentary films were commissioned by ATV from Mr Anthony Thomas. The

film crew returned from South Africa in September. The third film in the series, containing the sequences which Tate and Lyle say are damaging to the company, is to be shown on Wednesday week.

ATV agreed last month in correspondence with Tate and Lyle to make certain cuts involving people filmed and interviewed at Illovo, who were not resident here.

But Tate and Lyle say that their affidavits show discrepancies in other interviews, which they were shown in the form of "rushes" (unedited film) early last month.

They therefore want all the sequences removed. ATV have said, however, that it is not possible to give the categorical undertaking sought by Tate and Lyle.

Swissair first

Hongkong Dec 1.—A Swissair DC10 jet, with a full load of 237 tourists, left Hongkong today for the first commercial chartered flight to China since 1949.

Soviet rocket tests end

Moscow, Dec 1.—The Soviet Union today announced the completion of its rocket tests in the northern Pacific and said the test zone will be free for navigation from Friday.—AP.

Thatcher visit to Nato HQ

Brussels, Dec 1.—Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, today began a two-day visit to Brussels with discussions at Nato headquarters.

Nato sources said Mrs Thatcher was briefed on the military situation in Europe by General Hermana, Zeller, General Chairman of Nato's Military Committee. She also discussed East-West relations with Dr Joseph Luns, Secretary-General of Nato.

Later Mrs Thatcher visited the NATO Allied Headquarters, near Mons for talks with General Alexander Haig, Nato's European commander. She met his deputy, General Sir Harry Wainwright, and other members of the British delegation before returning to Brussels where she will meet EEC officials tomorrow.—Reuter.

S Africans held in Swiss cheques case

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Dec 1

Two South African businessmen are under arrest in Zurich and the other in Geneva, in connection with the theft last month of a large quantity of blank travellers' cheques in Johannesburg.

They are Richard Mitchell, until recently a leading figure in the South African Chambers of Commerce, and Bernard Morris, both in their late 40s.

Mr Mitchell aroused bank authorities' suspicions in Zurich by seeking to change abnormally large amounts of travellers' cheques in \$100 and \$500 denominations into Swiss francs. Mr Morris was doing the same thing in Geneva when apprehended.

Bonn learns how Britain copes with terrorists

Anglo-German cooperation in dealing with terrorist activities has been further extended by a visit to London by Dr Hans de Witth, the West German Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

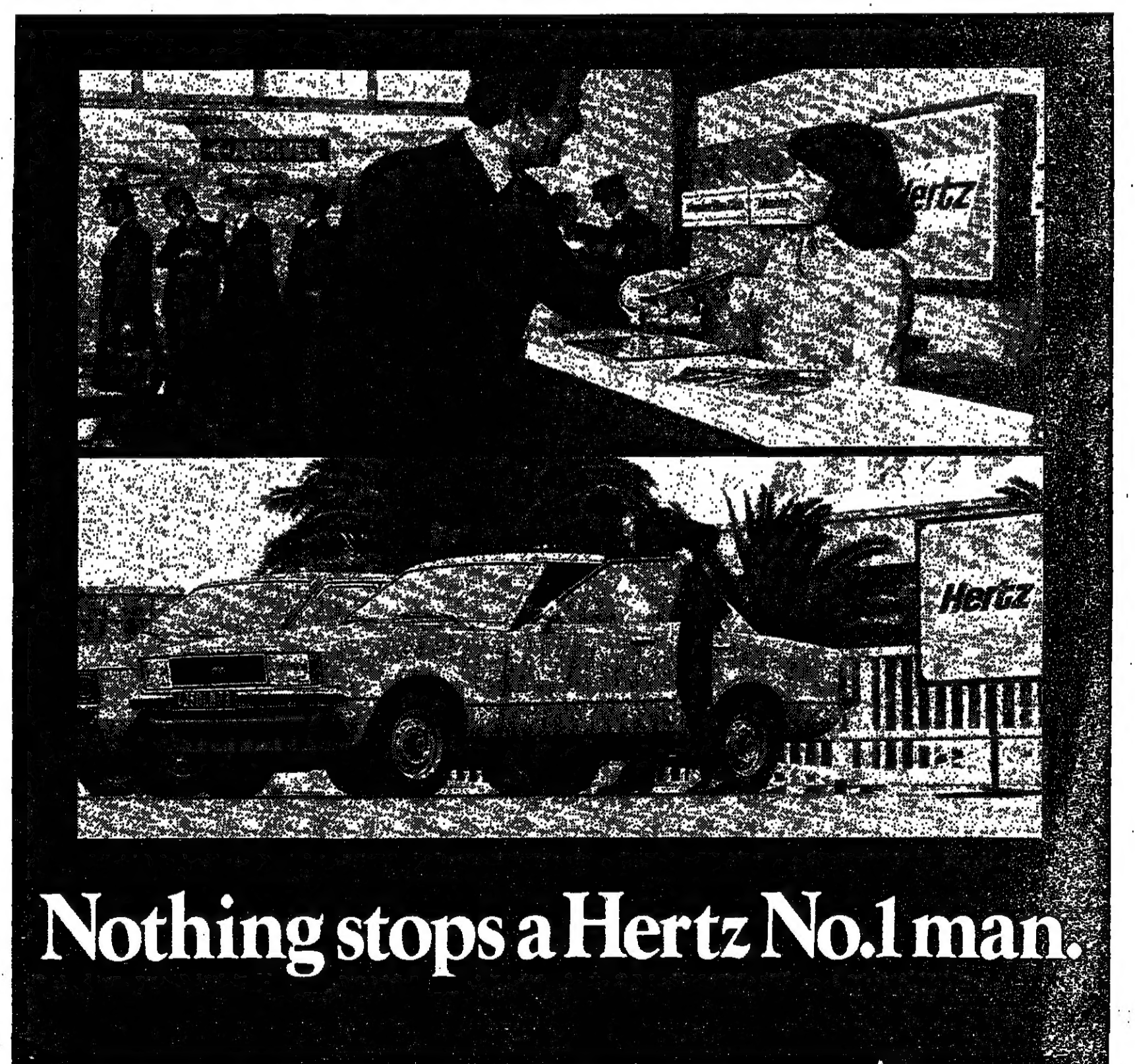
Dr de Witth was particularly interested in British experience on legal matters, such as the procedure of Queen's evidence, and the code of conduct applied by the legal profession in discharging lawyers who fail to meet its standards. He also discussed British practice in cases of artificial feeding of prisoners on hunger strike.

The West German Justice Ministry is anxious to pursue a "middle way" in bringing its legislation up to date for handling terrorist offences, Dr de Witth said yesterday.

German security man charged

From Our Correspondent
Bonn, Dec 1

Herb Karl Dirmhofer, of the West German security service, was charged today and accused of giving the press evidence that his service had been illegally tapping the home of a German nuclear scientist. He was charged with "sabotage against the constitution."



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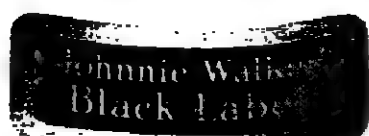
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Property



Stone High, at Cobham, Kent.

Ask any estate agent to list the main things a buyer is looking for in a house and the chances are that the word "character" will come pretty high up. Equally, the agent will find it difficult to define precisely what that is, for the word means different things to different people.

More often than not it is merely a preference for an older property in contrast to much of the modern high density "built to a price" estate development. So much so, that any recently built house may be automatically dismissed as being without character, but this carries the matter too far.

There is a steady flow into the property market of modern houses which have been built as one-off constructions, probably architect designed, to meet the needs of particular clients for good, out of the ordinary but workable homes.

Such properties are by no means the cheapest on the market, but often combine a good deal of character with the undoubted advantages of high quality modern construction.

One interesting such house in the luxury class is Stone High, in Cobham, Kent, built about 10 years ago and now for sale through Knight Frank and Rutley for something over £100,000.

It is a long, low, "contemporary" building of "limestone" brick with a tiled roof and an unusually large chimney. It has two reception rooms, six bedrooms, two dressing rooms, a sauna and a room used as an office.

In addition there is a separate staff or guest flat with a bedroom and bathroom, a swimming pool heated by solar panels and a greenhouse 50ft long. Further land and stabling are available.

Also in Kent is Owl House, in Mill Lane, Harbledown, near Canterbury, built about seven years ago in the chalet style in which interior layout has been designed to make the most of the hillside position.

Here, there are two large reception rooms with picture windows, a breakfast room, a main bedroom, dressing room, bathroom suite and four further bedrooms.

In search of a little character

There is a double garage and the area under the terrace provides space for further parking and a playroom. The garden runs along one side and offers of about 55,000 sq ft of open space through Strutt and Parker, of Canterbury.

Also modern and unusual is High Moor, in Compton Way, Moor Park, near Farnham, Surrey, built in the early 1960s. The accommodation includes two main reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room and three double bedrooms, all of which are on one floor. Above this is a large roof area more than 31ft long and 22ft wide with a dormer window.

Gardens and grounds run to about 64 acres and the outbuildings include a detached stone garage block, formerly a cottage, which has possibilities for conversion into a residence. The price is £75,000 and the agents are Bernard Thorpe and Partners, of Cheltenham, and Davis, Champion and Payne, of Stroud.

Offers about £70,000 are being asked for a property called Poolfields, at Kinson, Warwickshire. There is also a house of considerable antiquity. Inside there are many exposed ceilings and wall timbers, and the accommodation includes a reception hall, two further reception rooms with inglenook fireplaces, and five bedrooms.

A feature of the property are the grounds of just over five acres, which include a lake and two large ponds thought possibly to have had monastic origins. There is also a good range of outbuildings, including an open-fronted barn. The property is for sale through Estates of Leamington Spa.

A pleasant house dating from Regency times is the Old Rectory, at Colin St Dennis, near Gloucester, Gloucestershire. It was built about 1810, apparently on the foundations of a much older rectory, and is typical of its period, with low pitched roof and deep sash windows.

Construction is of rendered stone under a roof of Welsh blue slate and accommodation includes a drawing room, a kitchen with a dining area, a playroom, a main bedroom and bathroom suite and five further bedrooms.

Grounds extend to about 44 acres and have a frontage of 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank river fishing. Expected to make about £85,000, the property is for sale through Messrs. Brothers and Edwards, of Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

A little offer is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, dating in part back to 1742 and built of local stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland Valley and stands in about 11 acres. Offers of about £42,500 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Northampton.

It is built of Cotswold stone around an inner courtyard, and features a well laid out garden with a flagstone floor and a gallery reached by a spiral staircase. Accommodation also includes a large reception room, a library and four bedrooms. In addition, there are three large interconnected attic rooms.

Gerald Ely

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Christmas Gift Guide

For the Motorist

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Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens, every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summonsed for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.

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For Her

For Everyone

For Everyone

For Him

For Her

For Everyone

For Everyone

For Him

For Her

For Everyone

For Everyone

For Him

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For Everyone

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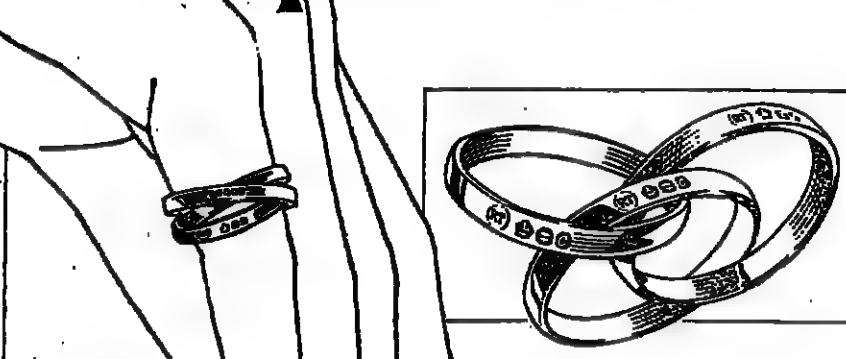
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Now that South Africa's whites have made their decision...

A landslide for Mr Vorster, but what will the urban blacks get out of it?

Johannesburg, Dec 1
So Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, won the mandate which he wanted from the country's white electorate. No one can have been surprised by the massive election victory which the National Party won in yesterday's general election. The banner headline on this morning's *Beeld* newspaper saying *UITKLOPBOU* (meaning knockout) could have been written weeks ago. But what happens now? Is there any reason to suppose that the lives of the nation's 4.7 million whites or, more important, the 18,000,000 voteless blacks, will be any different in the months ahead than before the election?

When Mr Vorster announced the snap election in September he gave three reasons for the move. These were that he wanted to sort out the situation which had developed among the fragmented opposition parties, gain approval for the National Party's new constitutional plan and finally to show the world that South Africa stood united against mounting pressures from abroad.

There can be no doubt that he has succeeded in his first aim. The New Republic Party and the South African Party have been hammered and the right-wing Herstigte

Nasionale Party has been ground into the bush. The Progressive Federal Party remains the only effective opposition party but its parliamentary representation will be too tiny to make any real impact on government policies.

The Government will claim that the election victory was a mandate for it to go ahead with its constitutional plan, even though the plan (full details of which have not yet been published) was scarcely an election issue. Mr Vorster made it clear this morning that the constitutional proposals "will be implemented in the course of time" although he said that legislation would take some time to be drawn up.

Mr Vorster also stated that the electorate, in showing their overwhelming support for the National Party, had "spoken out against foreign interference in South Africa's domestic affairs". This is certainly true as concerns the country's whites who in the past have tended to swing towards the government in moments of crisis. But the whites only account for one sixth of South Africa's population. The gap between them and the remaining "non-white" five-sixths will almost certainly get wider if the external pressures on South Africa continue to build up.

Mr Vorster admitted today that these pressures are likely to intensify as a result of his election victory. And so they will unless there is some evidence that South Africa is going to make meaningful changes as far as its "non-white" majority are concerned.

Will, therefore, the government make use of its massive majority to speed up the process towards race reform, and in particular offer a new deal to the 8,000,000 urban blacks who are permanent residents in the "white areas" of South Africa?

The dismal showing by the HNP in yesterday's election is a sign that the National Party could move ahead much faster in effecting race reforms without shedding any significant support among the party's right wing. There is a theory which has been widely propagated during the election campaign that Mr Vorster, having won his mandate, would embark on a Verligte (liberal) tack. This has become known as the "de Gaulle option", the basis of which is that Mr Vorster (like General de Gaulle during the Algerian war), would fight the election on a right-wing ticket but afterwards would quietly begin to dismantle some of the more objectionable aspects of apartheid.

This line has been taken by a number of Verligte nationalists such as Dr Jan Marais, the head of the South Africa Foundation and in the Durban seat of Finsbury, who suggested that only by joining the National Party could the party's policies be changed. There can be no doubt that many English speakers decided to throw in their lot with the National Party because they thought it was intending to make meaningful changes.

But at no stage did Mr Vorster ever suggest that he had called the election to get a mandate for change. And it would be most uncharacteristic of him or other National Party leaders who have spent the past 30 years building up the edifice of apartheid now suddenly to start dismantling it. The composition of the new government, which will be announced shortly, will give a clearer indication whether any changes can be expected.

However, if the Government does stick rigidly to its existing policies it must brace itself not only to expect more pressures from outside and inward among the black population but also dissent within nationalist ranks. An increasing number of Afrikaner nationalists, particularly in the universities and the press, are unhappy

The Church of change

The last few years in Latin America, which have seen the arrival of so many military governments, have also seen a remarkable change in the position of the Roman Catholic Church. Not so long ago the Church was regarded as a conservative force, a pillar of the established order. Now it has become in many cases the main opponent of the rightist military regimes, and an advocate of social change.

Even before this election was called the party had been subject to stresses between its Verligtes, who favour reform, and the Verkrampes (conservatives), who do not. The arrival of large numbers of English speakers in what was traditionally an almost exclusively Afrikaner party could place an intolerable new strain on party unity.

One thing is certain that there will be no relaxation of the Government's tough line on law and order and security. Dissent will be crushed in the same way as the black consciousness movement was suppressed last October. As the Prime Minister remarked today: "As South Africa is situated at present you cannot afford to play with the safety of the state."

Nicholas Ashford

American Church on a quite different course from its old support of the status quo.

"The exercise of political authority and its decisions", they declared, "have as their only end the common good. In Latin America such authority and decision-making frequently seem to support systems which militate against the common good or which favour privileged groups."

"The lack of political consciousness in our countries makes the educational activity of the Church absolutely essential for the purpose of bringing Christians to consider their participation in the political life of the nation as a matter of conscience."

The documents criticized both liberal capitalism and Marxism, saying that they both "militate against the dignity of the human person". They said that peasants' and workers' unions should acquire "sufficient strength and power", and they called for "the promotion of the peasants and Indians".

The Medellin meeting took place at a turbulent time in Latin American affairs, when guerrilla groups were active in many different areas, and change was in the air. Since then, the situation has altered again as the military governments have applied their own remedies to the guerrilla problem, and to political opposition in general, and the Church has found itself in the thick of the "struggle".

Church members have challenged the doctrine of "national security", which was initiated in military circles in the United States and has been an influential element in the thinking of the military regimes in Latin America. The doctrine is essentially based on the notion that communism is a threat to the nation, which must be countered.

The military regimes, they say, want to drag on the Church into backing their campaigns against what is seen as communism, because of the rallying power of traditional Church symbols in Latin America. But this attitude of the military shows no concern for the real aims of the Church, and when the Church refuses to cooperate it is liable to repression.

The more progressive members of the Church have elaborated what is known as "the theology of liberation", which is based on the peculiar characteristics of Latin American development, with its vast numbers of poor people and relatively small privileged class.

The central idea is that the deprived groups should shake off their lethargy and set about helping themselves.

In Brazil, for instance, where much of the pioneer thinking has been done, the Church has not only spoken out against torture, murder and illegality, but has tried to improve local conditions by setting up some 20,000 community centres in villages across the country.

It is noticeable that the most outspoken churches have tended to be in countries with some of the more progressive governments, such as Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. In Chile, the Church initially supported the military takeover of 1973, but soon switched to criticism of the junta for its violation of human rights.

There is elsewhere, the Church has been able to withstand a certain amount of pressure because it too is an institution in Latin America, like the armed forces. Governments have not wanted to move directly against the Church, and there has been an uneasy ambiguity in relations.

It leads to some odd situations. There was an occasion in Chile in which some of the bishops, returning from the abortive meeting in Rio de Janeiro last year, were greeted at the airport by what was clearly an officially organized crowd. They were also attacked in the press by the army-controlled press. But soon afterwards they were invited to an official lunch by General Pinochet, the head of the junta.

Some members of the Church are better than others at resisting this sort of blandishment. There are many bishops who are reluctant to criticize the military regimes directly; and even those who do, such as Cardinal Silva of Chile, find that they have to adopt a cautious approach if they are not to have a direct confrontation in which the Church might not come off best.

Peter Strafford

Bernard Levin

A good opening and a sinister endgame

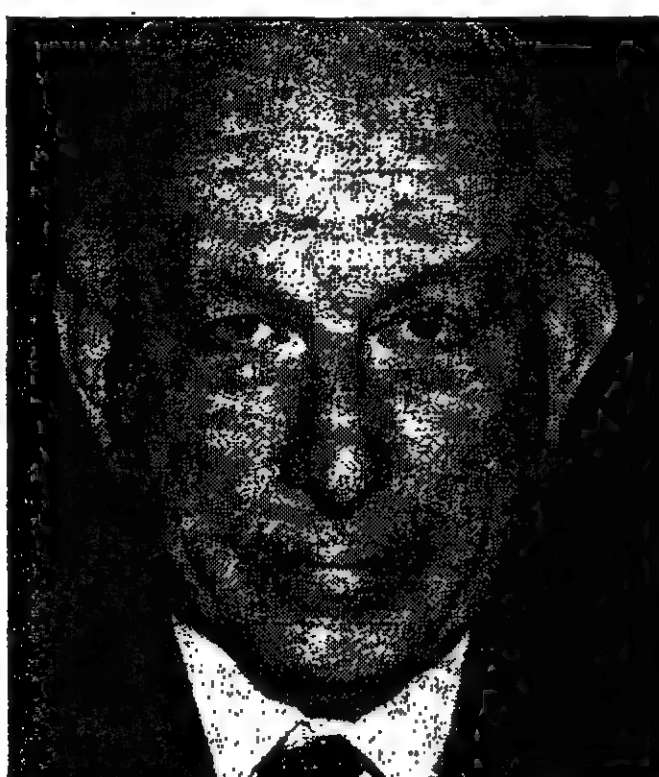
Chess is the only game with no drawbacks: it eliminates chance (at any rate from the board—it could hardly be expected to do so from the lives and temperaments of the players), anyone can learn in an hour or two how to play, it is infinite in practice even if not in theory, it requires no expensive equipment, it needs only two players, the talent for it is apparently distributed entirely at random, being found alike in players with no other intellectual attainments and in those of immense learning, it has never incurred ecclesiastical displeasure, and until very recently it has not been affected by political or ideological considerations.

I know of no game, at any rate of a complexity that makes it worth playing, that can say as much. And of course there is no game, and there are precious few other activities of any kind, that give the participants a pleasure so intense and varied.

Its literature is enormously extensive, and unlike that of games such as bridge—much of it can be read with interest by non-players. And I have rarely read a pair of chess-books in my hands of which that last point could have been made more intractably than in the case of *The Encyclopedia of Chess*, edited by Harry Golombek, and *Chess Is My Life*, by Viktor Korchnoi (both published by Bantam).

Mr Golombek is, of course, the Chess Correspondent of this newspaper, where he mixes chess entertainment with chess instruction every Saturday; in addition, he carries out various official functions on behalf of the International Chess Federation, the secretariat of the Fischer-Spassky World Championship match in Reykjavik, and it must have been largely thanks to him that that episode didn't lead to the Third World War.

Approached by the publishers to write a comprehensive encyclopedia of chess, he expressed amazement, which will be shared by every player, that there was no satisfactory work of the kind already in existence, and then got down to producing his own. He recruited six associate editors, including two British Champions, and six more contributors, he does not tell us on what principles the work was divided up, but some of them can be deduced from the authorship of the entries, each of which bears the initials of the writer. Not that it matters much; the user of an encyclo-



Golombek (left) and Korchnoi: covering chess across the board.

paedia wants to be reassured on only a few vital points: will he find what he is looking for, will the information be accurate when it is found, will it be supplied in generous but not excessive measure, will it be presented in a style (and format) that makes it pleasant to read? All these tests this book passes triumphantly, and I prophesy that within only a few months chess-playing households throughout the English-speaking world, and indeed beyond it, will be seeking chess information, and seeking chess arguments, with a cry of "Where's the Golombek?"

The entries cover technical terms, from Absolute Seventh Rank to Zugzwang, accounts of chess history in all the countries which have any details of all important international tournaments ever played, the official Laws (though I suspect it would be impossible to learn to play, if you knew nothing of the game in advance, from these alone), a vast and very useful section on problems, an almost equally large entry on the Endgame, a number of delightful entries on some of the byways, such as chess in

films and in Shakespeare (these is also an entry under Barman, though this is unfortunately not an account of famous drinking parties, but a description of the chess festival held in 1905 in the German town of that name), and—by far the largest group of entries—biographical accounts of every player of even the slightest distinction for whom records of any kind exist.

These will provide the greatest pleasure for the non-players, as well as the greatest amount of information for the players. We know that Count O'Kelly de Galway is not only a real person, but, if you please, a Belgian grandmaster; but which of us knew that the present World Champion collects stamps? The biographical entries, indeed, are models of their kind; extraordinarily concise for the information they convey (which includes details of the players' lives, chess careers, style of play and match temperament) and for the most part written with considerable grace. (The leading ones are those supplied with photographs—the book is lavishly illustrated throughout—though only Mr



Golombek himself has two such portraits accompanying his entry.)

All reviewers of reference-books have to draw attention to at least one omission, to show how clever they are, though I was hard put to it to meet this exacting requirement in the case of the *Encyclopedia of Chess*. I think, though, that there ought to be (I imagine there will be many more editions—indeed, there will have to be, for the book will inevitably get out of date as the scores of his outstanding games, which will be fairly quickly) the volume will look like a rather messy ledger, entirely black and entirely blank.

I said in my opening paragraph that chess had not "until very recently" been "sacred by ideology"; alas, Korchnoi's book would make the qualification necessary if nothing else had done so. It is an utterly absorbing and haunting book, and with the exception of the Appendix, in which he gives the scores of his outstanding games, can be read even by those who have never heard of chess. For Korchnoi's story is that of a Soviet grandmaster, feted and adored in America and in Japan as well as being broadcast in stereo on Radio 3, is the cause of all the excitement. As an estimated eight million people will see and/or hear the opera, I think Mr I would go and ask Robert Shostakovitch, a 70-year-old conductor, how he felt about it all. Mr Shostakovitch was very calm when I saw him yesterday and regarded me with hilarious tales of things that have gone wrong in various productions he has conducted over the years. He is presently

well over a stone, not counting the string) and bang the managing director over the head with the resulting parcel for the combined idioty and unprofessionalism of putting out the book with nothing whatever—neither title nor editor, not even publisher, colophon or dedication—on the spine or the boards; as soon as the dust-jacket disintegrates (which, with a reference book, will inevitably be fairly quickly) the volume will look like a rather messy ledger, entirely black and entirely blank.

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what followed we left— from his account of the pressure on him, the brutal intimidation (the authorities employed gangs of thugs to shout menacingly during his march against the reigning Soviet champion, whom they could not allow to be beaten by a political deviant), the threat ("You beat Karpov and just see what we'll do to you"), the treachery of so many of his friends and colleagues when the screw was turned (a few behaved well, including Spassky, who has himself been "hounded" by the authorities for his pains).

The Soviet authorities were in a genuine dilemma, which became acute when Korchnoi finally got out of the country. Most dissidents are ignored by the Soviet rulers, and very rarely indeed is any mention made of one who has escaped or been expelled. But this technique was impossible in the case of Korchnoi, such is the passion for chess in the Soviet Union, and such the official encouragement of it, that Korchnoi was known to literally tens of millions of Soviet citizens, who had set before television screens, watching him as he played. For the first time, the Soviet masses, as opposed, say, to the intellectuals or the Jewish community, could not be prevented from knowing that one of their idols was in disfavour with the regime, and the campaign against him seemed to be imbued with genuine panic. (A new Soviet book on the 1974 Karpov-Korchnoi Championship match told us that all references to Korchnoi deleted, so that he is simply referred to throughout as "the opponent".)

But there may be worse to come. At this moment, Korchnoi is moving towards victory in the final play-off round (ironically, against Spassky), that will decide who is to challenge Karpov for the World Championship. Since the championship is—by an international body not under Soviet control, they may be faced not only with reporting a fight between their World Champion and a "traitor", but also with the prospect of a defeat of the former by the latter. Already, Korchnoi has been playing like a tiger; if he gets the right to challenge Karpov for the crown, he will have to drive of pride, conviction and "hate" inside him that will take some stopping. I wish him well.

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THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Bringing Macbeth to the masses

When the Director General of the BBC attends a preview showing (a rare occurrence indeed) and when the gentlemen of the press appear at the end (even rarer) then something, as they say, must be afoot. Tomorrow's three-hour screening of Verdi's *Macbeth*, which goes out simultaneously on Eurovision and is to be shown in America and in Japan as well as being broadcast in stereo on Radio 3, is the cause of all the excitement. As an estimated eight million people will see and/or hear the opera, I think Mr I would go and ask Robert Shostakovitch, a 70-year-old conductor, how he felt about it all. Mr Shostakovitch was very calm when I saw him yesterday and regarded me with hilarious tales of things that have gone wrong in various productions he has conducted over the years. He is presently

bringing a book about these comic incidents. Television recording, he said, was even more exhausting than directing and *Macbeth* took eight days (12 hours a day in the studio) to record. Mr Stapleton and the orchestra were in one studio at the Television Centre and the cast were on stage in another. Synchronising the videotape with the stereo sound presented the trickiest problem. Best known for his interpretations of Verdi and of Puccini, Mr Stapleton now wants to take in Mozart and Wagner. "I've written an opera house of my own where I could go and make mistakes and learn", he said. Meanwhile, on December 14, he is to conduct the Huddersfield Choral Society in the Mozart arrangement of Handel's *Messiah*—a new Christmas honour for one so young.

High consumption at Westminster

The Consumers' Association are fast becoming one of the most prolific sources of legislation in the land. In the past six years, they have sent three private members' Bills of their creation into law. Now they seem destined to pass a fourth. Bryan Davies, the Tribune MP for Enfield North who came third in this year's battle for private members' Bills, has adopted Consumer Association's

In the steps of Lord Byron

Iris Benham-Lee, with period atmosphere in mind, dressed up as the wayward Lady Caroline Lamb the other night—the coach boy look—and trod the very floorboards that have known the tread not only of the real Caroline but of her adored, and at one time adoring, Byron.

You will gather that Mrs Benham-Lee has a lively sense of history. That is why she persuaded John Lloyd, present occupier of Byron's old chambers at Albion, in Piccadilly, to let a hundred or so charitably inclined people invade his premises so that two professional actors could read from the works of Byron and Lady Caroline.

It was just one more of her efforts to raise cash for Action Research for which she is central London organizer. She calls the events People and Places, and they are becoming the talk of London literati. She and her committee find a building with a literary or historical link, engage actors (without fee), set up a plenty of food and drink—and capacity audiences respond.

Oscar Wilde, Handel, the Duff-Coopers and Elizabeth I are among those who have been given the Benham-Lee treatment to date. Coming shortly: the Brontës and Isadora Duncan.

Just stooping

Late, but better than never, President Sadat has cleared up a minor mystery connected with his visit to Israel. Did he as he appeared to have done on television—kiss Mrs Meir?

"No," he said in a television interview, "but I would not have been ashamed to do so. He had merely bent over to greet her."

Another couple of months and a ghastly error could have got into the history books. Or, worse still, into the pages of *Red Letter*.

Ever had ringing in your ears?

For every second of every day!

The condition known as tinnitus takes many forms. A profoundly deaf person may hear bells ringing inside his head. Continuously. For every waking moment. Or he may hear the scream of machinery. Or noises like escaping steam, or rushing water. It is not unusual to hear two or three different sounds at the same time.

The RNID does what it can to help sufferers from tinnitus and all forms of deafness. To provide this help costs an enormous amount of money. And money, today, is painfully hard to find.

If you can hear, will you be thankful? And help someone less fortunate by means of a donation, a mention in your Will or by Deed of Covenant. Please do something. And do it today.

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Room 3, FREEPOST, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BR.
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helps deaf people to live with deafness

When Rattigan watched his own obituary

Eight months ago, the clearly dying Terence Rattigan watched his own obituary on television. He lay in a London hospital bed, surrounded by flowers, and after the video monitor was turned off at the end of the 90-minute programme, a tear coursed down his cheek and he quietly spoke his thanks.

Graham Benson, producer of the programme, and its director, Michael Darlow, had watched the playwright particularly closely to see how he would react to what Mr Benson calls the "highly personal" aspects of his life. There was no hint of disappointment.

Tonight at 9.25, BBC 1 will be screening the programme, *Terence Rattigan: a Tribute*. It will include eulogies from many of his closer friends and professional admirers, John Gielgud, Emlyn Williams and there are scenes from some of his plays and the films for which he wrote the screenplays.

"In making the programme, we did not lean heavily on the fact that Rattigan was dying, but we had to do it in a hurry," Mr Benson says. "We knew we were making an obituary, but we had to make sure we gave no hint of that pre-knowledge to Rattigan."

61th a heavy breather wanting to reverse the charges...



Sociology, the boom academic discipline of the sixties, has at last got the accolade of a chair at Oxford. Dr A. H. Halsey, who has just completed the writing of this year's delayed *Ratcliffe Lectures on 'Change'*, which are to be broadcast in January, is to be given a personal chair in Social and Administrative Studies.

هكذا ان اللاط



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SOUTH AFRICA'S VERDICT

The National Party, led by Mr Vorster, has won eighteen additional seats and proportionately increased its overwhelming majority. The election has gone as predicted. There are no surprises. The question is, rather, is there anything for the comfort of liberal and humane people inside and outside the Afrikaner republic?

Very little, but not naught, what there is should be talked. The United Party has been destroyed, its political site bulldozed. In its place stands the very small, but realistic and now official opposition, the Progressive Federal Party. Though barely twenty in number, it does stand for an alternative white South Africa. It needs to clarify, and even radicalise, its policy, but it sits in parliament to witness that there is a sizeable minority of whites who oppose apartheid and who wish to bring the black majority into the political process.

This may sound lame. But South Africa is not, after this election, a one-party state. If in all those black African states which still have an assembly and elections there were, unhindered and at liberty to speak with parliamentary privilege, a comparable opposition party, it would still be possible to believe that representative government remained a hope of Africa's constitutional development. As it is, most of those from black Africa

who will denounce the verdict for Mr Vorster will represent firepower, or one-party intimidation, rather than the secret ballot. While South Africa has a parliamentary opposition and a few outspoken newspapers, hope must not be given up.

It is, furthermore, possible that so large a government party may prove less easy to manage. New independent Afrikaner voices may speak up in criticism on the government side. An uneasy but muted younger Afrikaner generation must realize that it and its children will have to take the consequences in the years ahead of the mistakes made by its elders, and may now find spokesmen.

Finally, the result clears the air in that so many—the exact proportions have yet to be estimated—English-speaking South Africans have joined the Afrikaner nation. This may enable Mr Vorster and Mr Botha to see that the whites are one nation, whereas the blacks are eight nations. On all tribal criteria it is not true, even now, but the blacks can take heart from a demonstration that voting for a party cancels tribal, cultural and linguistic dissimilarities.

By all accounts, Mr Vorster is now hoping, having got the whites fairly solidly into the larger, to get some support from the Coloureds and Asians with a new, as yet unspecified, constitution in

which they will have consultative assemblies (a sort of racial devolution) which will assist in selecting the state president—a titular figure only. It remains to be seen if he has more sweeping constitutional changes in mind. It looks as if he envisages a process of slow constitutional-making such as was pioneered by the Turnhalle conference in Namibia. The results could be very different.

Mr Vorster has declared that white South Africa has given its decisive answer to foreign interference. Certainly it is a dusty answer for those who were so naive as to think United Nations sanctions would reduce Mr Vorster's vote. The purpose of sanctions is to serve notice that the world abhors racial oppression and will use any suitable occasion to weaken white supremacy. However long it takes, they also tell the black minority that they are not forgotten, that their struggle is supported. The Biko inquest leads to no other reasonable conclusion than that he was illegally killed by the security forces and that following this, the government responsible for these security forces has been returned with a large majority. The white electorate cannot complain if it is inferred that they have this week consciously taken on themselves the guilt for what has been done to Biko and those like him. They have marked their foreheads as well as their ballot papers.

WHY AN OPEN TRIBUNAL IS NEEDED

The Crown Agents, as Mrs Hart said in the House yesterday, have had a long and distinguished history. As a result of the decision not to operate as agents for other governments and public bodies but to become in effect secondary bankers of a particularly speculative sort, operating extensively on their own account, this distinguished institution was by 1974 spectacularly bankrupt. The background to that unwise decision has been well explored by two committees of inquiry. The preliminary conclusion can only be that there was negligence in many places, among the Crown Agents themselves, in the Whitehall departments with responsibility for the Crown Agents, and in the Bank of England, which is responsible for the order of financial institutions. There is, however, no reason to doubt the minister's judgment that steps have now been taken to right the situation and that "nothing like the events described" could ever happen again.

If it had not been for the perseverance of certain newspapers and Mrs Hart's attachment to open government that is where matters might well have

been allowed to rest. The original inquiry by the Stevenson Committee produced a report in 1972, which was suppressed until yesterday. The argument throughout has been that confidence in the Crown Agents and in the British financial system as a whole would be damaged by an open investigation of the issues involved. These arguments were and are unconvincing. Strong and worthwhile institutions are seldom, if ever, damaged by the truth. Far more damaging has been the gathering impression that a scandal was being swept (and then kept) under the carpet, in order to avoid embarrassing revelations about those who were directly or indirectly concerned. Mrs Hart deserves commendation for insisting that in the end openness must prevail.

For this reason it is a pity that the Government have decided against a full Tribunal of Inquiry. Given the past history of this episode nothing less than a full and open inquiry of this sort is likely to satisfy the requirement that justice should now be done in public. Given the reputation of Sir Carl Aarvold and Mrs Hart's personal interest it would be quite wrong

to suggest anything except that the further investigation will be most thorough. It is impossible, however, to avoid the situation in which some will think that the procedure of a full and open inquiry has been refused because certain persons and institutions would be embarrassed and that the inquiry might stray into other areas. If an inquiry were to stray somewhat into an investigation of the wider collapse of property companies and secondary banks that would in fact be fully in the public interest. The issues raised by the collapse of the secondary banking system, which in a sense came to include the Crown Agents in their extra-mural activities, have not been properly or fully investigated.

The central point, however, is that an informal inquiry working in private cannot provide a forum in which responsibility for this debacle can be properly allocated in a way which will satisfy public opinion. Those who are in the end blamed as some certainly will be will not have had a chance to put their case in public under oath. And institutions will not be able to show in public that they have put to right such defects as have been revealed.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COUNCILLORS

If earnings were distributed according to a ranking of relative desert established by referendum—and drier systems have been proposed—there might be some jostling at the top between nurses, firemen and zoo-keepers, but there would be few candidates for a place lower in the list than local councillors. This public appraisal, which is by no means fair, has three main causes. First, there is a general instinct that when times are bad, rulers and governors at whatever level should suffer at least as much as the rest of us. Recollections of the local share in the recent upsurge of public spending have not yet been obscured by the successful efforts to bring it under control again. Second, the corruption uncovered by the Impeachment affair and other cases will make people live down. Third, public opinion is still in the habit of regarding councillors ideally as disinterested volunteers. The system of larger allowances introduced in 1973 has given strength to the charge—in most cases quite unjustified—that candidates seek local office with a view to lining their pockets.

These factors would make non-starters of the main proposals of the Robinson report, published yesterday, even if no official policy of earnings restraint existed to make immediate implementation impossible. This is so although one of the main purposes of the report is to clear councillors of the suspicion

(fostered by present arrangements) that they spend all their time thinking of tricks to enlarge their allowances. At present they receive an attendance allowance of up to £10 a day (and a payment for travel and subsistence which was included from the inquiry). In 1973 attendance payments replaced an allowance for financial loss suffered on account of specified council business. This had been fair to be unfair to the self-employed, who often could not prove their losses, and not to reflect how hard each councillor worked.

The present system has led to even more dissatisfaction on the latter ground than the old. So the report proposes reintroducing financial loss payments, but only as a minor part of total rewards. Each councillor would receive £1,000 a year simply for having brought home the votes, and those with special responsibilities (such as committee chairmen) would receive hundreds or even thousands of pounds more. These extra sums would create an incentive to more than token participation in council business. At the same time local discretion about the circumstances in which allowances may be paid would be sharply reduced—a proposal which would do more to safeguard the standards and reputation of local government than anything else in the report.

The committee insist that these payments would not be salaries, but the distinction seems an artificial one. Salaries are rejected because they would

"irretrievably damage the voluntary principle, which is still fundamental to many people's conception of council membership". A guaranteed £1,000 a year, plus expenses and lost earnings, may not be a living wage, but it would be a solid addition to most incomes. Only 7 per cent of councillors get more than £1,000 in allowances today. Higher rewards may encourage people of better calibre to come forward, but there is no evidence that the big 1973 increase did so. Councils badly need to attract capable people without a professional motive to enter local politics, but while rewards on this scale might not be enough to tempt them, they would be a strong allurements to the mediocre.

Above all, they would represent a huge increase in the patronage of the political parties. Many councillors serve from high motives, at great expense of time and energy, often suffering financial loss that cannot be computed or compensated. But too often seats in a safe ward are in the gift of a small party caucus, which may set a high value on a candidate's readiness not to rock the boat. The greater the rewards, the greater the temptation for a councillor to play along and disregard his constituents. It is unfortunately the case that the public today does not trust local parties or representatives with a power of patronage on anything like the scale proposed.

Public leading right

From Mr Brian Aldiss

Sir, P.L.R. must be safeguarded at law. The Society of Authors—which has promoted P.L.R. since 1951—has intimate knowledge of almost every possible method of operation and of the legal problems. Despite certain reservations, it backed the Government P.L.R. Bill—the one killed at the last stage by filibuster in November, 1976. It fully supported the technique worked out with the Department of Education and Science, namely that remuneration to authors be assessed by house stamping at selected library points, and that all the finance be provided

from central government funds, in order to preserve the free public library system.

The society now supports the suggestion that, failing legislation, a non-statutory scheme be organized by the Arts Council—if this flies within the council's powers—in order that P.L.R. should start as soon as possible and that, at last, authors should be paid for the use of their copyright works in public libraries. At the same time it realizes that any non-statutory scheme is highly vulnerable, since it can be diminished or abolished altogether in times of financial or other stringency. Therefore, in the end P.L.R. must be safeguarded at law. P.L.R. is in essence an aspect of copyright. Protection under a

revised Copyright Act is thus the logical solution, if this does not involve too long a delay and provided it can be harmonized with the requirements of the E.C., which is now becoming active about P.L.R. and other rights of authorship.

In writing this letter I am expressing the views of the Committee of Management of the Society and of my predecessors in the chair, Geoffrey Trease (1972-73), Michael Holroyd (1973-74), Lady Antonia Fraser (1974-75) and Francis King (1975-76).

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN W. ALDISS, Chairman
of the Committee of Management,
The Society of Authors,
84 Devon Gardens, SW10,
November 25.

Awarding criminal legal aid

From Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, and Mr John Marriage, QC

Sir, Observations made by Lord Shawcross on the administration of justice and the conduct of the Bar in criminal trials would ordinarily command respect. Although while in practice he rarely acted in criminal matters and retired from the Bar in 1958, he was Attorney-General from 1945 to 1951 and later Chairman of the Bar Council. It is therefore unfortunate that a careful reading of the press release of his speech made last week to the Old Bailey Journalists' Association and of the reports of that speech should disclose two major misstatements on the duties of a defending advocate in a criminal trial and seriously misleading in implying that the Bar is failing properly to discharge its further duty to the public.

He asserted that the Bar had recently abused the prerogative right to challenge jurors. This right belongs to an accused person and not to the barrister. It is a duty of the barrister to exercise the right on behalf of his client, for it is within the general duty of his advocate to defend. It is one of the matters he must consider in the light of his client's interests. It is both wrong and unjust to attack the Bar for the lawful use of a right given to an accused person originally by the common law and now by statute.

He further stated that no barrister should during a trial make allegations suggesting fraud or ill doing on the part of others or attack the police, unless he is satisfied that the information available to him reliably suggests that what he is alleging is true. It is no part of a barrister's duty to make such allegations, unless relevant facts underlying the assertions he is required to make in the proper conduct of his client's case. His own belief is irrelevant. An accused person is to be defended by his advocate as he is alleged to be. That is the function of the jury. It is only if he is required to put questions not directly relevant to the case, to attack the general conduct of the police or the advocate is called in to ensure that he has reasonable grounds for thinking that the imputation in his questions is well founded or true.

In a passage on legal aid, Lord Shawcross said: "We know with

certainly that about 80 per cent of those committed for trial are guilty. But when cases are actually tried by a jury the chances of acquittal are quite good. I have used sporting odds because the fact is that the administration of criminal justice is increasingly regarded as a kind of game—and one to be played according to sentimental sporting odds. That is why nowadays crime pays. The criminal knows: if caught he will get legal aid and have at least a sporting chance of so confusing a jury that he will get off. "Increasingly" implies that the Bar is now indulging in questionable activities previously unknown. The deliberate use of the statistic implies that as a result for fewer criminals are now being convicted. This is not true. The latest available judicial statistics show that in 1976 over 81 per cent of those committed for trial were acquitted either on their plea of guilty or after trial.

If Lord Shawcross really wants to complain about the acquittal rate then he should quote the relevant figures. He should also familiarise himself with all the changes that have taken place in the last 20 years. He should not make ill considered and sweeping criticisms about legal aid and the Bar who are members of this Association practising in the criminal courts are wholly prepared to accept and act upon valid criticism based on a proper assessment of the role we play whether prosecuting or defending. We conduct thousands of cases day by day and it would be foolish to imagine that errors cannot and do not occur, or that we are always quick of mind or speech as those who bear no responsibility in the cases we do think we ought to be. Such failings do not in any way justify Lord Shawcross's criticisms. He should consider further to mislead the public as to the strict rules which govern our professional behaviour and the standards we display in the discharge of our duties.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DU CANN,
Chairman,
JOHN MARRIAGE,
Vice-Chairman,
Criminal Bar Association,
One Elizabeth Building,
Temple, EC4.

Scotland Bill progress

From Mr George Younger, MP for Ayr (Conservative)

Sir, Few constitutional matters would stir with your correspondent Hugh Younger (December 1) in his view that the proceedings on the Scotland Bill are highly unsatisfactory, but the main reason for this is that Parliament is being asked to consider a Bill which is highly technical constitutional Bill under a "guillotine" procedure.

The Conservative Opposition have put down a large number of sensible amendments which are by no means irrelevant, and which certainly ought to be fully debated. However, the fact that many backbench members in all parties have also put down amendments, which they have often taken all of the small time available for discussion, leaving no time for discussion of important amendments put down by the Opposition. Similarly, many important amendments have never got called for debate either. All of this makes a nonsense of discussing the Bill, and is bad for Parliament.

Of course it is the case that under present arrangements the Government would be most unlikely to be able to get this Bill passed without a timetable being enforced, as it has

not got the essential basis of all party support which any major change in the constitution should have in any democracy. Perhaps, therefore, the House should consider changes in the arrangements for parliamentary consideration of major changes in the constitution. If the Government insist on selecting the all party conference, which our colleagues from other parties are engaged in the profession that the House with such distinction. His interest in the affairs of Equity has been long-standing. However, on this occasion, some of the fears he expresses are at worst unfounded and at best exaggerated.

It is true that, by a large majority, a recent meeting changed the rules so that two members of next year's Council will be elected specifically to represent the interests of those who predominantly work in the fringe theatre. This is not unprecedented, as for many years the Equity Council has contained members who sit in reserved seats for representatives of particular sections of the profession. The addition of two members representing the fringe theatre is not indicative of any desire to sectionalise the union. The entire membership will have the right to vote for the fringe candidates, and as now, there will be nothing to prevent or inhibit members from moving freely from one section of the theatre to another.

I feel certain that the majority of members share Lord Olivier's objection to the rigid compartmentalization of a profession which, as he rightly points out, thrives on the virtuosity of its members.

The anxiety that Lord Olivier expresses about the forthcoming consideration by Equity members of a set of proposals which would create a new structure based on local branches sending delegates to an annual policy-making conference, is also shared by many performers. That these proposals are being circulated at all, results from a referendum of the entire membership—a process of which he presumably approves.

Of course, the problems of how to run organizations which can still

The conflict in Argentina

From Miss Julia Napier

Sir, André Tarnowski's article on Argentina (November 25) leads to some curious conclusions. Apart from the inaccuracies and errors noted by Martin Ennals of Amnesty International, the article apparently exposes The Times as a tool of guerrilla organizations in Europe.

Mr Tarnowski appears to be arguing that violence by guerrillas justifies violence by the State. An eye for an eye, or rather the Nazi principle of ten lives for a life. He significantly omitted any reference to the sales of Nazi literature in Argentina, and the frequent statements by ex-prisoners that they saw Nazi slogans and swastikas in the prisons and police stations.

He gives the impression that guerrillas are killed in gun battles in the heat of the moment. Yet in the heat of the moment, you would not expect to see the death of a victim. Electric shock torture described by Henri Alleg as the worst possible pain, is routine. There are also the Latin American favourites; suspension by the hands, submersion in urine, etc. Pregnant women are beaten and tortured with the intention of causing a miscarriage. Rape is common. The wife of a trade unionist was found dying by the road with one breast almost torn off. A Peronist deputy was flayed.

Anyone who protests about this or makes inquiries about friends or relatives is likely to disappear. The Times leader of September 9 mentioned. The latest edition of Index carries a horrifying account by a Uruguayan journalist of his arrest and torture in Buenos Aires. He was then taken to look for his son who had disappeared. Rudolph Walsh, a journalist of some standing in Argentina, has not been seen since March when he published an open letter condemning the regime. His letter was published clandestinely. Censorship is extensive. Many people do not know the extent of the horror. Many dare not speak. Fear, as in Nazi Germany or Stalin's Russia, is a powerful motive for silence.

However, there is not, as Mr Tarnowski would have us believe, a total absence of protest. Every Thursday afternoon the mothers of the people who have disappeared gather in the Plaza Mayo to demonstrate each other and exchange news. They are often threatened by the

police and some have been arrested. It is far from true that the BBC correspondent "was released on Thursday last." He was released unharmed within a few hours.

The regime is anxious to avoid bad publicity. It might put people off going to the World Cup or the Cancer Conference. Mr Tarnowski could have interviewed some of these despairing women as well as the happy housewife.

If he lives in Europe, perhaps he could have interviewed Señora Matilda Herrera who now lives in Paris. On July 26 1976 her son Martín Belausguí, aged 20, was arrested with his wife. On May 13 this year her daughter Valeria and her husband Ricardo Waisberg disappeared. On May 30 her remaining son José and his wife Electra were taken. She still has no news of them, though their infant children were returned to her. I suppose she has that consolation. The children of the murdered Whitehaves have still not been found.

Mr Tarnowski says, in that easiest of slurs, "all victims are not necessarily innocent martyrs." Your readers may not know how many people are held without charge or trial in appalling conditions. Your readers may have forgotten that General Prats of Chile was murdered in Buenos Aires, and that ex-President Torres of Bolivia and Senators Gutiérrez and Michelini of Uruguay were murdered there also.

What is so upsetting about this sort of article is, unless you know what I do about the barbarities being committed in Argentina today, and I know only a fraction of the whole story, the argument is rather persuasive: everything is all right really; it is a war, after all. Well, if it is a war, could we please see the observance of the Geneva Conventions? To plan to visit the secret concentration camps such as the one reported near Mendoza. Basic human rights should be respected in places such as U 9, the Plaza, U 11, Villa Dorotea, and the prisons in Chaca, Rawson, San José del Estero, Famalia, etc. from which appalling reports have been received.

In the belief of all the political prisoners, the disappeared and the dead: victims in what the regime likes to call the Third World War. Yours faithfully,
JULIA NAPIER,
Chairman, Committee for Human Rights in Argentina,
114 Brampton Road,
Cambridge,
November 28.

Changed rules of Equity

From Mr Peter Plovieze

Sir, It comes as no surprise that Lord Olivier (article, November 25) is concerned about the future of the union which represents those who are engaged in the profession that the House with such distinction. His interest in the affairs of Equity has been long-standing. However, on this occasion, some of the fears he expresses are at worst unfounded and at best exaggerated.

It is true that, by a large majority, a recent meeting changed the rules so that two members of next year's Council will be elected specifically to represent the interests of those who predominantly work in the fringe theatre. This is not unprecedented, as for many years the Equity Council has contained members who sit in reserved seats for representatives of particular sections of the profession. The addition of two members representing the fringe theatre is not indicative of any desire to sectionalise the union. The entire membership will have the right to vote for the fringe candidates, and as now, there will be nothing to prevent or inhibit members from moving freely from one section of the theatre to another.

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The anxiety that Lord Olivier expresses about the forthcoming consideration by Equity members of a set of proposals which would create a new structure based on local branches sending delegates to an annual policy-making conference, is also shared by many performers. That these proposals are being circulated at all, results from a referendum of the entire membership—a process of which he presumably approves.

Of course, the problems of how to run organizations which can still

creedily be described as democratic, when most members are unable or unwilling to take an active part in their government, is not unique to Equity. If it is a fact that most members of most institutions prefer to be inactive, then by definition all activities are unrepresentative of the majority. This is equally true in Equity, as in the local tennis club or even the House of Lords.

"Activists" surely should not always be used as a term of abuse any more than it should invariably be assumed that only the politically left are active. Live organizations absolutely depend upon there being some form of activity. When matters in practice is that we find ways whereby those who direct the action do so in a manner that is as nearly "acceptable" to the majority as is practically possible, and if they fail in this, the majority can awake from its slumber and without too much trouble, force them to change.

If the particular form of structure soon to be considered by Equity is as unacceptable to most performers as it clearly is to Lord Olivier, then I have no doubt that it will be rejected.

If it is adopted it will only be as a result of a two-thirds majority having been achieved at a meeting to which every member will be individually invited. Even then, it is possible that changes will need to be confirmed by a referendum.

If Equity should ever fall into the hands of an unrepresentative politically motivated minority, the blame must fall squarely on the shoulders of those who have no right to be called "moderates" but who should more properly be designated "apathetics". Yours faithfully,
PETER PLOVIEZE,
General Secretary,
British Actors' Equity Association,
8 Harley Street, W1,
November 30.

A mistress's rights

From Mr J. G. J. Copeland

Sir, The excitement and euphoria over the decision in the battered mistress case, *Davis v Johnson*, is to some extent unjustified and misplaced. Despite the ruling of the Court of Appeal it is by no means certain that a woman in Miss Davis's position will be able to obtain an injunction against Johnson or to sue as to exclude him from the "matrimonial home".

Although the judgments in Davis's case have not yet been reported in full, it seems that the rule in *Young v Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited* remains unaffected whereby the Court of Appeal is not bound to follow one of its previous decisions where there are two conflicting decisions of its own. We now have exactly this situation. There are two sets of conflicting decisions; namely *Davis v Johnson* on the one hand, and *B v B and Cantell v Jenkins* on the other hand. It is therefore open to a subsequent Court to decide which line of decisions it will follow.

Therefore, the position is uncertain and the euphoria to that extent unjustified. This uncertainty will persist until there is a decision by the House of Lords on the point. Yours faithfully,
J. G. J. COPELAND,
324 Bank House,
Barbican, EC2.

Criticizing Kleist

From Professor U. Dann

Sir, Mr Vincze's eulogy of Kleist (*The Times* Saturday Review, November 26) cannot pass without a modification. Kleist's genius and power are beyond dispute. But surely, Mr

Vincze, by his own standards, glosses over those traits of Kleist which are obnoxious to the collective mind of the West in 1977: His insane hatred of the French ("Schlagt sie tot! Das Weibergeschlecht! Fragt mich, nach den Gründen nicht!"); his penchant for cruelty and bloodshed; his social prejudice—natural to his background, but a strain on dramatic truth and, of course, ridiculous from our viewpoint (Kathchen becomes acceptable as her knight's bride when she is revealed as an imperial by-blow). And, on a different plane, Kleist's mannerisms of style with its interminably meandering sentences. Mr Vincze knows all this. He would carry more conviction if he had taken honest issue with these points.

May I conclude on a lighter note: Mr Vincze's implied defence of the propriety of Kleist's relations with Frau Engel comes strangely from the author of *Prärie der Frauen*—that most delightful of erotic tales. I prefer Mr Vincze's of *In Prärie*.

Yours sincerely,
UREL DANN,
9 Briel Lane,
Oxford.

No connexion

From Mr C. B. Q. Nicholls

Sir, Last Friday (November 25), the *Day Times* reported that 350 million numbers can now be reached by direct dialling from London. I tried nine public telephones at Victoria Station before finally made contact with a number in Maidstone, Kent.

Yours etc.,
BENJAMIN NICHOLLS,
16 St James's Square, SW1.

decision for preservation has been to choose ships with national and evolutionary significance as distinct from those of purely local interest and pride. To arbitrate thus on a national scale is difficult enough. To arbitrate on an international scale would tax the judgment and tact of a maritime Solomon.

With cooperation, the compilation of a register of existing preserved ships throughout the world is not too difficult. To produce a list of ship relics worthy of preservation, we have come to realize, a task of Herculean proportions. To agree the apportioning of whatever money can be raised (internationally?) to worthy relics without injuring the pride of individual nations subscribing to the scheme, will call for maritime brotherly love of a high order. I doubt not that it exists: the bonds of maritime preservers are as strongly international as those of preservers of precious terrestrial relics.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. WALL,
Deputy Director,
The Maritime Trust,
16 Bury Street, SW1,
November 23.

Saving historic ships

From Commander R. D. Wall, Retd

Sir, In his timely article printed in *The Times* on November 19, recommending the preservation of historic ships, Frank Carr suggested that one of the earliest tasks of such an organization would be the compilation of a register of historic craft throughout the world.

It may be of interest to shipowners who read the article to know that a start on such a register has already been made by the International Council of Maritime Museums, which in 1975 formed a committee on ship preservation of which I am chairman.

One of the most difficult tasks facing my committee (and mentioned in Frank Carr's article) is the formulation of an internationally acceptable set of criteria governing the preservation of historic vessels. It has been the experience of The Maritime Trust that there is no end to the number of vessels, in this country alone, claimed to be "historic", and our aim in making a

a Special Report on the art, techniques and implements of handwriting

More see point of variety

by Derek Harris

Fountainpens were revolutionary enough in their day when they represented probably 70 per cent of the writing instruments business. Now they are down to less than 20 per cent of a market which in the United Kingdom last year, was worth some £32.6m.

That does not mean, according to pundits in the trade, that the fountainpen is on its way out. This is despite all the progress in the past three decades first with ballpoint pens, and then with rollerball pens, and then with the tip pens (which the trade calls markers).

The latest invention is the rising tip pen, roughly a cross between a ballpoint and a marker. Even a new capture in propelling pencils (it uses a series of usually thin leads spring loaded to prevent breakages in writing use) is making inroads in a number of foreign countries.

The essential characteristics of the market in writing instruments now seems to be far where at one time one person would make one pen and possibly a pencil or two or most of the writing obs necessary, nowadays he or she will own a whole array of different instruments for different jobs.

This is where the greatest expansion in the market has come from in recent years, although where fibre pens and other markers in the past six years or so hardly seemed to affect most ballpoint pen sales it is possible that the rolling tip might erode either or both.

The total market tends to be under-researched with some comparative statistics hard to come by, but there is no doubt it is a highly competitive business in each of its sectors. The marker market at the cheaper end is dominated by imports, largely from Northern Italy but with some from the Pacific basin.

Imports are the source of

many of the own-brand markers to be found in the big multiple shops. But Montmore Manufacturing, which produces the Platinium range and is one of the few remaining independent British pen and marker makers, nevertheless claims 67 per cent of the children's markers market.

Imports overall represent about 40 per cent of total sales in the United Kingdom in terms of value and far more in terms of units. In ballpoints—the biggest single market segment in the United Kingdom at 41 per cent—the foreign share was last year 48 per cent. The French company Bic, a major supplier to the commercial market, which means sales to companies and organisations rather than over the counter to individuals, probably accounted for a substantial slice of such imports.

But foreign competition is not confined to the throw-away end of the market. A common assessment of the major competitors in the United Kingdom market is that, in value terms, Parker Pen led the field followed by Papermate, the subsidiary of the United States-based Gillette.

Parker, although another United States company, has been manufacturing in Britain since 1948, not only supplying the United Kingdom market's needs but also exporting to some 80 countries. Papermate on the other hand largely imports from the United States and in the quality ballpoint pen sector runs Parker close for first place in value terms. Papermate certainly is ahead of Parker on volume, some of its range being further down the market.

Last year 77 per cent of the Parker sales was represented by ballpoint pens, fountainpens being the other substantial contributor at 15 per cent. The other major contender in quality ballpoints is another United States company, Sheaffer, which does some part manu-

facture and assembly in Britain at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

Sheaffer is the nearest rival to Parker in the sector which is almost synonymous with Parker pens—the gold nib market. The largest volume in this market is at about the £10 retail mark, although Parker makes one solid gold fountainpen retailing at £137.

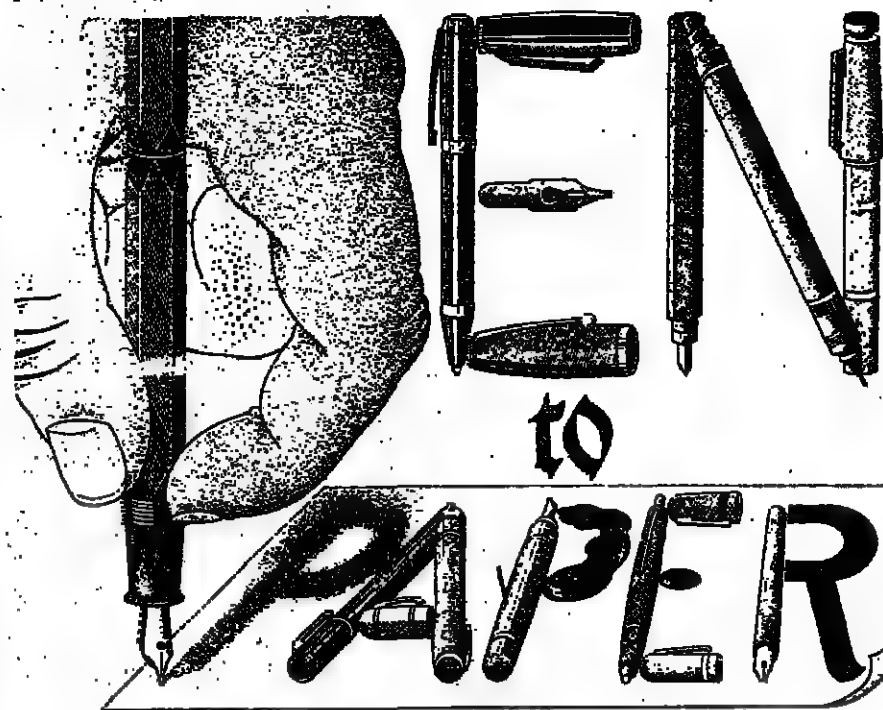
But while Sheaffer has at most some 20 per cent of the market sector, and the French company, Waterman, some 5 per cent, Parker claims 72 per cent of the market.

Mr Jack Margry, marketing director at Parker, whose manufacturing headquarters is at Newhaven, East Sussex, commented: "Since the dip in sales caused first by the ballpoint pens, the nib market has remained pretty static for a number of years. But there have recently been signs of a pick-up and I believe there will be a slight increase over the next few years—possibly 5 per cent a year. One problem is the people who have not used a fountainpen or not for a long time; it is a very sophisticated writing instrument these days, none of the old splurges and leaks that some might remember from school days, and convenient with such facilities as alcohol ink cartridges."

He felt the upturn would be in the quality market, including the better quality steel nibs. Parker claims 32 per cent of the steel nib market by value.

But here a lion's share goes to Platinium pens that dominate the lower echelons of the sector. Platinium, while having a few gold nib pens in its range, has well over 50 per cent by volume of the fountainpen market, including those with steel nibs. Two thirds of the steel nib sector is represented by buying for, or by, school children. Young people still tend to use fountainpens for handed-in work at school although the pressures on

continued on page III



Richard Draper

Writers begin to show their true colours

by Patricia Tisdall

Great prestige is still associated with personal writing paper. Even though faster and easier ways of direct communication by telephone and air mean that letters are seldom the only clue to the writer's personality and status, many people believe that a prospective employer or host will analyse the appearance of a letter including the quality of the paper that it is written on as well as its content.

Butlers, social secretaries and other connoisseurs still scrutinise stationery carefully in this respect. However, the yardsticks have pitifully for the unselfconscious. At one time social status used to be related to the size of the embossing on a printed letter-head and the thickness of the paper. Gilded edges were particularly valued.

But by the end of the Second World War upper class tastes had changed to become less flamboyant. In addition, mass production and marketing had brought a good quality notepaper with the reach of everyone's pocket. Writing paper came to be considered more as a guide to the taste of the sender rather than his status.

Until the past five years or so, the only colours easily available from most retail stationery were a conservative blue or white. Since then, however, letter writers—particularly younger ones—have become much more adventurous. The change started behind American-style marketing of greeting cards with folded and boxed notepapers containing a decoration on one side. It

was in the personalised sector of the stationery market that Mr Christian Brann, a marketing consultant with considerable experience of printing and publishing, saw a business opportunity. His preliminary research showed a demand for a wider range of matching paper colours, inks and envelopes than were generally available. Above all, people wanted the ordering process made simpler and quicker.

The research showed that, contrary to widely held beliefs, the potential user's favourite colour was no longer blue but velum—a warm, pale beige colour. Given the option, 33 per cent

has now spread, particularly in the choice of colours offered, to conventional notepaper.

Nevertheless, some of the old class-conscious attitudes to personal stationery have not altered. Thin, ruled, writing paper is, for instance, still regarded by etiquette tutors as socially inferior. This widespread attitude sprang from the delusion that only the semi-literate needed rules to guide their handwriting. At the same time, most popular writing pads to this day carry a heavy ruled sheet which can secretly be used to straighten shaky handwriting.

On the other hand, printed letterheads have continued to be considered desirable socially as well as for practical reasons. The problem has been, until recently, that the supply of personalised printed stationery has been confined to a small number of outlets. Obtaining it has tended to be a lengthy expensive and tedious process undertaken by only a few persistent and copious letter writers.

With a few exceptions, the choice of supplier was limited either to the local printer, who did not welcome having to set up his press for a short run of 200 or so sheets of paper, or to a retail agent of a large concern such as J. Arthur Dixon who placed orders from style books.

In either case it was rare for delivery to be made within less than a month.

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The research showed that, contrary to widely held beliefs, the potential user's favourite colour was no longer blue but velum—a warm, pale beige colour. Given the option, 33 per cent

preferred this, whereas only 12 per cent chose blue.

The next most popular colour was amber, a darker shade of brown, followed by white. Brown headed the list for ink with 40 per cent, followed by wine with the traditional black and blue colours lagging well behind.

Mr Brann decided to act on his own research results and for the past year has been operating a mail order personal stationery service from a printing plant based at Cirencester in Gloucestershire.

He offers delivery, based in pre-paid orders received as a result of advertisements, within 28 days and claims to have built up a market "in excess of a million households".

Mr Brann's system has, he says, proved as successful in Switzerland and Germany as it has in Britain and he is planning to enter the Dutch market.

As well as being quicker than conventional outlets, Mr Brann's service is considerably less expensive, at between £4.25 and £5.95 for 200 headed sheets, depending on size. At the other end of the personalised writing paper scale it is not difficult to be charged £100 or more for a set of 500 or more than 20p a sheet plus envelope for writing paper from, say, Smythson of Bond Street, London.

By far the largest company within the writing paper industry, however, is Dickinson Robinson whose Basildon Bond, Queen's Velvet, Three Candlesticks, Lion and Churston Deekle brands account for nearly three quarters of total British sales—estimated at about £18m. In some sectors, such as writing pads, its share is as much as 80 per cent.

As well as being one of the biggest manufacturers of envelopes and stationery products in the world, the £382m group is also one of the oldest, having been founded by John Dickinson in the early 1800s. It remains one of the few industrial giants which still survives from the days of George III.

The company, which has a considerable export as well as British trade, places con-

siderable importance on its brand names. One of the oldest of these is Lion which, at between 9p and 12p a pad (depending on size)—is also the least expensive.

Lion brand paper, first instituted in Calcutta in 1880, was adopted as Dickinson's logo in 1910. The most recent, sitting at the top end of the company's quality range, is Three Candlesticks priced at 40p for a pad of 50 sheets and introduced in the mid 1960s.

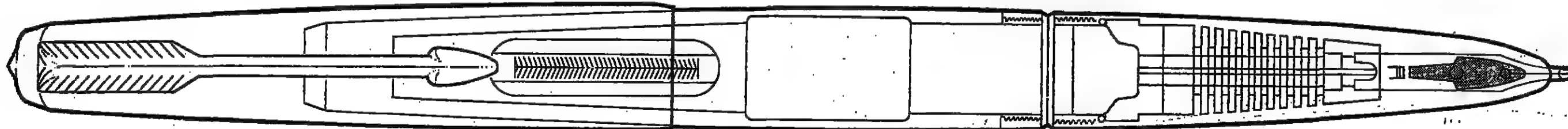
Contrary to common belief, the habit of writing personal letters has not been replaced by the telephone. Far from dwindling, Dickinson's sales were expanding by between 3 and 5 per cent until 1974 when they were hit by a combination of steep postal rises and the general economic recession. Growth in real terms overall has subsequently been of the order of 1 to 2 per cent annually.

However, while not reducing the number of letters, corresponders are tending to write shorter ones. Tastes have also changed, with the result that the main growth in sales is now in decorated, illustrated and unusual short notepaper, usually sold in boxes. Here, although one of the first in the field with their Briefeffs brand, Dickinson's account for only about 15 per cent of sales.

The reason for this is that there have been large numbers of new entrants, either imported or designed by craftsmen on a small scale. As a result, the market is much more fragmented than for instance, the writing pads sector where distribution is national and in great quantities.

New entrants with original ideas are competing for older customers, who make most purchases of personalised stationery, and also for the youthful fashion-conscious market, which buys most decorated notepaper. Nevertheless, Dickinson's is confident of maintaining its stake as far as the mass of writing paper purchases is concerned, and is meanwhile opening up new markets abroad. The range of established brands has recently and successfully been introduced in Japan.

A pen that merely looks beautiful is no pen at all.



Before you buy a new fountain pen ask yourself a fundamental question.

What are you actually going to do with it?

Is it something you're going to leave as evidence of your good taste on a leather-topped desk?

Is it going to be a status symbol with which you sign the occasional bill, at fashionable restaurants?

Or will it be a piece of jewellery to complement your gold cufflinks and cigarette case?

If so, take a look at the photograph of the Parker Cirrus below, compare it with other fountain pens that cost around the £22 mark and make your choice.

But if, on the other hand, you are

going to write with it, that's a different matter.

And we'd recommend that you study the technical drawing above, for it will tell you a lot more about the pen.

For example: do you see that little capsule shape behind the nib, the one with the fins?

It's called an ink collector and ensures there's always enough ink with which to write, but never so much as to blot.

And if the air inside the pen expands (due to high altitude flying or the heat of your hand) it'll prevent ink leaking into your suit pocket.

Another reason why the Cirrus will always write first time is the way we make the nib.

Starting with sheets of pure 14 carat gold we press, cut and polish it into a shape that perfectly conveys the ink to the tip.

At every critical stage we examine it under a microscope, particularly of course, when we grind the tip itself.

We make this from a costly alloy called Plathenum which is four times harder than steel and ten times smoother. It will last a lifetime.

There are eight nib-styles and if you find you're unhappy with the one you choose, we'll change it for another grade if you return it within a month of purchase.

We could go on. The clip is of rolled gold on phosphor bronze. It shouldn't snap or lose its tension.

The ink-sac is rubber, it won't perish or puncture (and you can replace it with a cartridge of Quink simply by unscrewing it).

But perhaps it's time to look at the photograph.

The Cirrus is finished in rolled gold on which we've drawn the finest lines to give it a quiet lustre.

If you think it has style, good. If you think it will reflect well on your status that's fine.

But if it makes you want to write, well, that's perfect.

PARKER



THE PARKER CIRRUS COSTS £22. THERE IS ALSO A MATCHING CIRRUS BALL PEN, FIBRE TIP AND PENCIL, £14 EACH. RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES INCLUDING VAT.

Away from the signs of the times and back to a fair script

by Nicolette Gray

"Beautiful or fair writing, elegant penmanship" is the Oxford Dictionary's definition of calligraphy. Do we practise, or have any use for this activity today?

The dictum that reading and writing are becoming obsolete, that we are reverting to a state of communication through signs and

sounds only, has, it seems, and one hopes—been rejected. But do we still need "fair writing"? Not in one sense; no one now makes a fair copy of a text, or in a ledger. That is done by the typewriter.

What, about fair in the other sense? We see plenty of clever, modish or fancy letters on advertisements, book jackets, record sleeves and so on, but this is seldom pen-made; it is lettering

rather than writing. Is calligraphy, then, an art of the past, of books written with quills on vellum, of the elaborate forms and flourishes of the writing masters? In this sense it is surely dead.

But there still remains "elegant penmanship" as the proper accomplishment of an educated person. It can hardly be said to flourish. Most people can and do write, but their writ-

ing is seldom elegant; indeed at no time in our history has handwriting been so mean and dull. The only decent hands which one sees are all to a greater or lesser degree dependent on the revival of italic hand. In this our only hope? Should we press on, regardless of teacher resistance, towards italic for all?

Penmanship: the pen seems an essential element. But, when we say "pen", what do we mean? If we are talking practically, we mean a ballpoint or a fibre or fountain tip—the abomination of most people who believe in calligraphy.

Traditional pens can produce an elegant modulated line, either by pressure, as in copper-plate writing, or by the angle at which a broad-edged nib traverses the paper, as in italic. In the old "correct" position pointing along the arm, gives a movement which checks the down stroke and eliminates the tendency to the horizontal scrawl. It also gives a lighter touch.

Pauses in the flow of writing

Dip-pens needed to be dipped into the ink at frequent intervals. This created necessary pauses in the flow of writing and formation of letters—pauses which were carried on into the fountain-pen period. The ballpoint runs on indefinitely, making for speed and ease, but not for the rhythm of writing with this pen. So we need to create one, and this can be done only by thinking out the movement of the pen in making letters, and in particular in making letter-combinations. We need to decide when and where the hand should be trained to pause and to make a pen-lift, and which letters should be terminal.

New pens require new pen movements, a new pen-hold, a new writing rhythm: in sum, a new method of learning to write—just as changing pens brought changing styles and methods in the past, from the earliest cursive written with a

pointed reed pen, through Gothic using a flexible quill, sixteenth-century italic with its chisel-cut pen and finally back to the flexible pen for copperplate, the last formed style of handwriting practised in this country.

If good, legible, pleasant handwriting is to become once more the normal accomplishment of educated people, not a self-taught hobby among the few, this means a new method of teaching in schools.

At present handwriting seems to be yet another area of education which is greatly neglected. Most children are made to start by copying printed letters—forms of our alphabet which have been expressly designed to eliminate all elements of calligraphy, including the joining movements which are an integral part of cursive letters. These establish correct letter-spacing and make possible that easy flow of movement which is essential for the ultimate formation of a quick and legible hand.

After the first step of teaching "print script", there seems seldom to be any consistent school policy about handwriting. Although there may be talk of "free expression" at an early stage, with the result that the small child may be expected to write an untrained paper, the only criteria in later school life are likely to be neatness and regularity.

And, indeed, how can we expect anything else when we have no models of excellence in handwriting? Copperplate has been superseded by "print script", which is a method of teaching, not a style of writing. The only formed and beautiful script which is available to the child, or the adult, who wants some sort of ideal on which to model his hand, is the italic hand. And that is based on the use of a pen which is obsolete.

But perhaps this unedifying situation is not so disastrous. It leaves the way open for the introduction of new methods. We need to experience with pen-holds. We need to find out how



A pupil at a Manchester infants' school starting early—at seven—to "form her letters". Perhaps she will be of a generation which will recapture the stylish copperplate of its great-grandparents.

letters can be drawn with a ballpoint for maximum ease and beauty, not by inventing new forms, which would be illegible, but possibly by looking back into the history of cursive forms which might be revived. We need to work out letter-combinations in relation to language and spelling.

We are told that we read words, not letters. I see no reason why children should not at the same early stage learn to write words as units, and also those digraphs which are so important in our language, gh, ch, sh, gr and so on. In this way we should be able to find a new writing rhythm. The reform

is overdue; we need to embark on it.

The author is researching on the teaching of handwriting for the Inner London Education Authority. She has written a number of books on lettering, including its use on buildings and its relation to drawing and typography.

More see point of variety

continued from page 1

them to use traditional ink pens no longer appear to be so great.

This Platinum share is probably equivalent only to about 20 per cent of the total value of the sector. Even so, with its substantial slice of the market for popularly priced ballpoint pens and an unusually wide range of styles, Platinum is the total writing instrument market almost certainly takes a substantial third place in value terms after Parker and Papermate. That would leave Sheaffer fourth in the overall pecking order.

Mr Christopher Andrews is chairman of Montmore Manufacturing and, at 36, the second generation of his family in a business started in 1919. From his vantage point at Montmore's Stevenage factories in Hertfordshire prospects for sales and profits are looking good, particularly lively export effort being mounted that last year took the company over the £1m mark in overseas sales.

This was just over 13 per cent of sales turnover compared with the 25.7 per cent for the United Kingdom manufacturers as a whole, but there was a notable leap in market sales abroad, an area where the United Kingdom makers as a whole had not been doing so well. Japan. Platinum's pens abroad are sold under the President label to avoid any difficulties with near-named Platinum.

Technologically speaking the next major move in writing instruments looks like the rolling tip or rolling ball pen. All the manu-

facturers, including those at the quality end, are evaluating its possibilities.

Examples from Japan show that it can give the clean line of the ballpoint with the easy flow of the fibre pen. A ball is located in a plastic socket, but the main difference is that instead of using an oil-based paste ink as with ballpoints an easier-flowing "wet" ink is used as in marker pens.

The rolling tip has an improved life compared with markers but still trails well behind the ballpoint's best capacities. Some ballpoints will write for five miles of a single line. At its present stage of development the rolling tip might reach one mile.

Another growing market is in the quality gift sector where the well-known trading houses in other areas of merchandising, such as fashion, perfume and tobacco accessories, are adding quality pens produced under their house names. It is the gifts sector, among the quality fountain pens, ballpoints and fibre tips, which stimulates the biggest advertising expenditures.

Parker, as might be expected, is by far the biggest United Kingdom advertiser, with an annual budget of well over £1m. In the first six months of this year Parker accounted for 35 per cent of the industry's total spending in media. Their budget for this Christmas exceeds £650,000. Papermate's Christmas campaign is also impressive at more than £450,000.

The author is Commercial Editor, The Times.

"Hello? Is that the engineer?...I said,
THE ENGINEER...No, I know you can't hear
me. That's why I'm ringing....What?...But I AM
speaking up.....I said I AM SPEAKING UP!
...There's a high scream on my line....No, not
an ice cream...A HIGH SCREAM...Well, why
ask ME what it sounds like?...What? I know I
need an engineer, that's why...you're who?
...Oh, this is impossible! I shall write to The
Times about it...THE TIMES...Phone what?
...123? Oh, forget it!"



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Basildon Bond
by John Dickinson

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And with its superlative texture, *Three Candlesticks* is probably the most distinctive paper ever watermarked.

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Our free brochure also offers you a personal choice of address heading styles and colours. Or you can save time and leave this all to us, by ordering from the coupon below.

We'll deliver all orders received by December 6 before Xmas, if possible, can first class post permitting. Whether for yourself or for a gift, don't miss this opportunity to acquire truly distinctive writing paper that will express your good taste and support the World Wildlife Fund at the same time.

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To: The World Wildlife Fund, c/o Panda House,
29 Cavendish Street, London EC1N 6JN. Tel: 01-404 5691.
☐ I enclose cheque (PO) for £9.50 payable to W.W.F. Trading Ltd.
(Complete box below if paying by credit card. Please supply one
cabinet of white *Three Candlesticks* (and post to name and address
at bottom of coupon) personalised as follows:
(Write address clearly, and include name & phone number if required).

I'd like to pay by ☐ Barclaycard ☐ Access
CARD NO. ☐ VISA ☐ M/C
NAME ☐ AMEX
SIGNATURE ☐ Diners
☐ Please send me your free colour brochure and order form.
NAME ☐ Discover
ADDRESS ☐ Novus

T2.12.77

There is little new or special in the techniques of marketing writing paper, but in recent years the popular demand for new designs—and even for new products—has grown at a striking rate.

A notable example is the success of the Brieflet—a single sheet of paper, 27cm by 18cm, folded in four and sporting a pretty picture in one quarter, which sells most strongly in the middle-to-cheaper end of the market. Its manufacturers, John Dickinson & Co, reckon that since 1967 its sales have risen from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of their market and are still climbing.

In common with its many counterparts—Notelets and Charlets and Posidlets and all the other-lets on to which the correspondent is expected to compress his address, the date and his most powerful emotions—the Brieflet's appeal lies chiefly in its size: "the short message for all occasions". It is ideally suited to a lazy age, when the telephone call, while cheaper as well as quicker than a letter, can still be less socially acceptable.

Product of our times though it may be, the Brieflet is merely the latest model in a tradition of personal stationery, marketed by Dickinson's on a mass scale, which originated 140 years ago.

Shown in the accompanying pictures are two early landmarks in that tradition: a box of stationery produced in 1899 for British soldiers serving in the Boer War, and a two-penny stamped cover issued by the Post Office in 1840.

Inside the lid of the South African box, known to the trade as a compendium or papeter, is gummed a facsimile reproduction of one of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poems, *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, written and signed by the poet. An accompanying legend states that Dickinson's bought the reproduction rights from the *Daily Mail* "for a large sum", and that the proceeds were given to the Reservists Fund. The box contained 24 buff-coloured sheets and 20 envelopes to match. It probably sold for 6d.

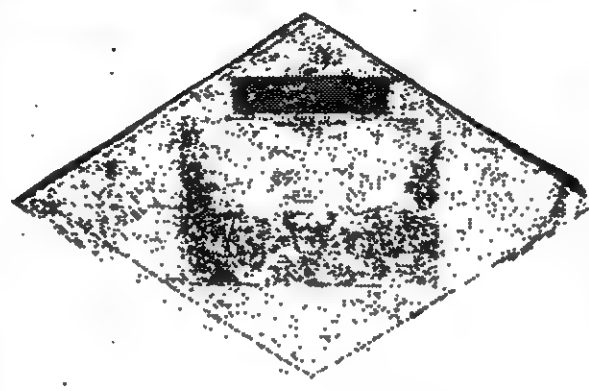
The stamped cover, like the box, comes from the Dickinson archives at Aspley, near Hemel Hempstead. Known to collectors as a Mulready envelope—its value today, unused, is about £45—it recalls the almost-forgotten tale of a Victorian marketing fiasco.

The story of that fiasco illustrates some of the finest virtues of its period: endeavour and ingenuity, patience and energy, enterprise and foresight. Nevertheless it ended in a mixture of tragedy and farce, and it is worth recounting in detail.

For some years before the yet been patented), the universal penny post was separately printed and sold stamps such as were already in common use as medicine.

Clearly, the former method presented the paper manufacturer with by far the greater opportunities for profit, and Mr John Dickinson, who had long ago established the extensive mills at Aspley in Hertfordshire, on the banks of the River Gade, soon became the cover's most ardent champion.

As early as 1830, Dickinson had been circulating letters of the stationery trade with a pair of demonstration letter-sheets made from the silk-threaded paper which he had patented in the previous year. Until then, and for some years to come, his use had been chiefly confined to Exchequer Bonds and other government documents which required authentication.



By February, 1838—the month in which Rowland Hill was examined by a Select Committee of the House of Commons on his plans for postal reform—Dickinson was convinced that this

paper would be ideal for the proposed official covers. He was already in close personal touch with Hill.

Such was Hill's confidence in the security offered by his friend's product that he was prepared—even anxious—to recommend it specifically. "I should propose", he told the Commissioners, "that the public should have their option, either buying such paper stamped at the Stamp Office, or that they might send in their own paper to be stamped. There could then be no charge of monopoly against the Govern-

ment; but I think it very likely that the public would prefer the paper issued from the Stamp Office, and it certainly would be a convenience to the Post Office if that were the case, because the risk of forgery being so much diminished by the use of such a paper as Dickinson's, the duty of the inspector would be very much diminished, and I think all prospect of loss to the revenue from forgery would be at an end."

"Would that not give rise to complaints of monopoly on the part of other paper-makers?" asked the Commissioners. "I think not," Mr Hill replied. "If the Government could enter into a contract with Mr Dickinson to supply them with such paper as they might want, giving any stationer in the kingdom, or any individual, the privilege of bringing whatever paper he chose, of whatever quality or price, to be stamped, there could be no complaint."

The Commissioners' suspicions may have been allayed, probably not. In any case, the resolution passed by the Commons on August 17, 1839, under which the universal penny post finally became law, allowed for both options—covers and stamps.

It was now up to Dickinson not only to secure the government contract for making the covers—that he did, on February 26, 1840—but also to ensure that the public would opt for its use in preference to the stamp. It was at this point in his campaign that, as the wages for it, Dickinson came unstuck.

Six months previously, in the wake of the Commons resolution, the Lords of the Treasury had announced a competition, open to "all artists, men of science, and the public in general", for proposals "as to the manner in which the stamp might best be brought into use". The competition, worth £200, was won by William Mulready, RA, and it was his elaborately engraved design for a square postal cover which Dickinson, with nifty, had secured the contract to manufacture.

The collapse of Dickinson's long-held plans was as swift as it was unforeseen. The Mulready cover and the

Penny Black stamp went on sale simultaneously, on May 6, 1840. The public, as ever more concerned with the message than the medium, at once decided that Mulready's design was a bad joke and laughed it off the market.

According to the late Dr Joan Evans, whose admirable history of John Dickinson & Co. (*The Endless Web*, Jonathan Cape, 1955) is the source of this article, the design's fault lay in its supposed symbolism rather than its execution—although that too was far from perfect.

In order to give an example of the decision the cover met, Dr Evans quotes a scathing description published in a London daily newspaper: "In the centre, at the top, sits Britannia, throwing out her arms, as if in a tempest of fury, at four winged urchins, intended to represent post-boys, letter-carriers or Mercuries but who, instead of making use of their wings and flying, appear in the act of striking out or swimming".

Within six months the Mulready envelope was dead, killed by ridicule. So complete was the public's rejection that almost the entire stock had to be destroyed by a machine constructed for the purpose.

Richard Sachs

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For details of your nearest stockist write to: Norpens Limited, 17 Kirkdale Road, Leytonstone E11 1HR.

His Nibs finds a market still exists for his wares

by Bevis Hillier

Mr Philip Poole's pen shop at 182 Drury Lane, London, looks as if it has been there for a long time. The window display is dominated by what he calls "the pyramid"—a sort of signpost of ancient pen nibs. Around it are venerable inkpots, wipers, pen trays and widened old advertisements for pens: the Pen of India, the Meteor, the Colonial Pen, the Light Brigade Pen, the Velvet Pen, the Legal Pen.

In fact he has been there for only 18 months; for the previous 40 years he sold pens and nibs in Sicilian Avenue, Bloomsbury. His old shop has been destroyed in a rebuilding scheme.

Mr Poole's visiting card is printed "His Nibs" a title conferred on him by *The Times* diary just over a year ago. At first he thought it derogatory, but friends convinced him it was an honourable title. It is certainly an apt one: Mr Poole not only sells nibs but has made an astonishing and picturesque collection of them. He has some 5,000 nibs in all.

His Nibs was born in Kensington, London, in 1909. He began work as an office boy in a paper merchant's and drifted into the pen trade, which was then flourishing.

There has of course been an acute decline in the demand for the kind of pen he mainly sells. The growing popularity of the ballpoint pen since the 1940s, and later the felt-tip pen, have undermined the trade.

(He magnanimously includes one early ballpoint in his collection.)

But there is still a demand for his wares. "Cartoonists use pen nibs: Ralph Steadman, for example, is very attached to one pen nib which he has used all his life and says it is the tool of his trade and he must have it."

"I said: 'Well, it hasn't been made for 30 years', and he said, 'You must get them from somewhere'."

"I still have a small stock of them. Music writers also use pen nibs for their work. And calligraphers, of course. They get attached to a certain pen for its flexibility and so on. Though I've noticed that some of these professional calligraphers don't have very good ordinary handwriting."

His own writing is very regular and elegant.

Mr Poole's collection is divided into categories, neatly arranged in boxes. "These things are generally regarded as rubbish. People phone me and say: 'You don't really collect pen nibs, do you?' They're thinking of a pen nib that perhaps they used as a catapult at school. The manufacturers themselves are quite astonished, mystified; they can't believe that anyone can go to the trouble of saving the rubbish which they've thrown away."

In the first box he showed me, all the nibs had refuted portraits of famous people: Goethe, Lord Beaconsfield, Bismarck, Garibaldi. Most of them were made by Brandauer of Birmingham in the 1860s or 1870s. A more recent one of King Charles I of Württemberg bears the mark of Carl Kühn, the Vienna agent of Brandauer. One stamped with a head of Queen Victoria was made by William Mitchell.

Another Brandauer pen, with a rather nebulous draped figure, is called "The Virgin Pen".

Several of the nibs have decorative perforations, in the shape of exclamation marks, crosses, the ace of clubs, or crossed laurels. The best of these, which have a hole at themselves, are pierced with virtuoso filigree work.

Another box contains the *magnum bonum* nibs, which have a steel socket that fits over the penholder. I noticed that one of them bore the name of Joseph Gillott, whose name was familiar to me from nibs I had used (not catapults) at school.

He was one of the early manufacturers", Mr Poole said. There was some drama associated with him. William Mitchell worked with his brother, John Mitchell. They had a sister named Sarah who worked with them in the business, and she went off and married Joseph Gillott, her chief competitor.

"I've had the greatest-great-grandson of Joseph Gillott in here. The firm of Gillott still exists but they don't make pen nibs any more; they sold that part of their business to British Pens. Now they make pencil sharpeners, castors for chairs, and things like that."

The early history of pen nibs is given by one Henry Bore in *The Story of the Invention of Steel Pens* (1892), which Mr Poole has reprinted. It is, incidentally, almost as unappealing as speak of "pen nibs" as of

"riding on horseback": the correct term is "steel pen", which took over from quills. Mr Poole still sells quills too, but in the old days the quill was often a do-it-yourself job, as some doggerel by Tom Hood recalled:

In times bygone, when each man cut his quill,
With little Perryian skill,
What horrid, awkward,
Bumbling tools of trade
Appeared the writing instru-
ments, home made!
Humpty and stubby;
Some capable of lady-
bills neat,
Some only fit for ledger-
keeping clerk.

And some to grub down,
Peter Stubbs, his mark,
Or smudge through some
illegible receipt....
Mr Poole thinks that the earliest metal nibs in his collection probably date from the 1830s. He also owns a traveller's sample case dated 1849. It belonged to the agent of S. Levy & Co., Birmingham's Birmingham Sheet Steel Pen Works in Brussels.

His Nibs is still adding to his collection. Treasures occasionally turn up, such as nibs in the shape of a hand or the Eiffel Tower, or decorated with two figures dancing a polka or with an early locomotive. A particular prize was a nib made by Perry & Company, the manufacturers mentioned in Hood's verse; stamped with the Vatican crossed keys and the Papal triple crown, it is called "The Pius X Pen".

But Mr Poole is also diversifying into antique fountain pens, inkwells, books on calligraphy and advertisements. His favourite advertisement is the Victorian placard for MacNiven and Cameron of Birmingham:

They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Men:
The Pickwick, the Owl and the Waverley Pen.

A Victorian was composed a pastiche of this:
They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Women:
The Camberwell Baths for Ladies to swim in.

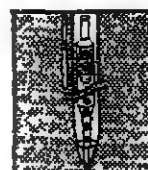
"There's a dirtier one", His Nibs said. He looked it up. It was a Second World War rhyme:

They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Men:
The Blackout, the Torch and the Cute Little Wren.



Brushed chrome pen £2.95

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Shown from left to right, Madison Ballpoint Pen, Automatic Pencil, Fibre tipped Pen and, foreground, the new exclusive Madison Fountain Pen.

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vice. Wamsen, 01-905 6456.

Equal pay legislation overrides wages policy

er that the master's order giving effect to the letters inquired into the propriety of the disallowance of the appeals in Westborough. The discount DuBoise delivered a speech for allowing the appeals to the English appellants and disallowing the Massachusetts appellants. Lord Diplock, concurring with Lord Diplock, could have changed the whole order as from 18. Lord Fraser said that he had set aside the master's order insofar as it related to withdrawing documents by the RTZ companies. Lord Keith delivered a speech concurring with that of Lord Fraser.

They're closer than you think.

هكذا عن الاصل

**Respite for
aging rules**

By the Honorable
John C. Stennis
U. S. Senator
Mississippi

Washington, D. C.

Financial Editor

Respite for aging rules

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

John Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORS

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

Shipyard workers asked to 'black' Polish orders lost by Swan Hunter

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Shipyard workers throughout Britain were being asked to "black" any of the seven Polish vessels worth £52m which are being transferred from the Swan Hunter yards on Tyne-side, to other yards because of an overtime ban by 1,700 out-fitting workers there.

Today telegrams will be sent to those yards which have benefited, or are likely to benefit, from the loss of the contracts to Swan Hunter. The action earlier this week of a recommendation that the outfit workers lift their overtime ban. Letters are also being sent to shipyards throughout the country calling on workers not to cooperate in the building of any transferred vessels.

This latest move by the outfit workers' shop stewards was a widening of the dispute which had already badly dented the industry's reputation overseas. It came at a time when executives of British Shipbuilders were hoping for a change of heart by the weekend would still allow at least some of the seven ships to be confirmed with Swan Hunter.

Drawings at the Tyne-side yard were drawn up the plans for the 16,500 ton dead-weight ship which form part of the £115m deal have also refused to allow plans of the ships to leave the Wallsend

yard in a further attempt to prevent the ships being re-assigned to other yards.

The campaign was stepped up yesterday at a meeting between the outfitters and the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Mr David Hanson, chairman of the shop stewards committee, said: "We are asking yards that could get the work not to touch any work that should have come to the Tyne."

Yards which will receive telegrams include Govan Shipbuilders (which has already been allocated one of the seven ships), Austin & Pickersill and Sunderland Shipbuilders on the river Wear, and Smith's Dock on the Tyne.

Shop stewards at Govan have adopted a wait and see posture towards the switching of the order after approaches from the Tyne-side shop stewards and workers' representatives at Govan. They will meet again next week to review the order in the light of further developments on Tyne-side.

But last night Mr Ken Baker, a part-time member of the British Shipbuilders board and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, called on the industry's workers to "think very carefully" before refusing to handle any of the diverted orders.

NEB set profit target of 15 to 20 pc by 1981

By Edward Townsend

The National Enterprise Board has been given a target of a 15-20 per cent return on its investments by 1981. But the requirement specifically excludes British Leyland, its largest subsidiary, and Rolls-Royce, the Department of Industry, with Treasury approval. They were revealed to MPs yesterday in a written answer from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

The target has been based on the NEB's forecast that the return on capital employed throughout manufacturing industry in 1981 will be about 20 per cent.

But the board said that Mr Varley had recognized that its purposes were not to be commercial enterprises and was able in appropriate cases

to take a long-term view of investment opportunities.

As a result, the NEB has been given the target of 15-20 per cent and urged by Mr Varley to achieve a result "as least as good as this" to the maintenance of steady progress towards that objective.

The responsibility does not cover NEB loans to companies in which it has no share investment or rights to buy shares, or to government aid under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975. NEB holdings in Leyland and Rolls-Royce are to be judged separately at a later date.

Under the terms of the NEB guidelines, the board is already required to charge interest on loans it makes to subsidiaries or other companies at a rate not less than that paid by commercial companies when raising finance.

BP third quarter disappoints

By Christopher Wilkins

After two quarters of better-than-expected results, British Petroleum went into reverse in the third quarter. Earnings for the first nine months of the year as a whole are up from £1,244m to £2,100m, but the third quarter income was down from £519m last year to £441m. This was well below most stock market forecasts, and BP's shares fell 20p to 900p.

Total volume sales of 42.8 million tons, little changed from the comparable period last year. Compared with the second quarter, when earnings were much higher at 75.5m, sales were 3.6 per cent up.

Part of the profit dip is attributed to the weakness of the dollar against sterling, but the most important factor has been the low level of world-wide economic activity, especially in Europe where there is a surplus of shipping and distillation capacity.

As a result crude oil prices have been depressed while costs have continued to rise. Net sales proceeds were up from £2,632m to £2,956m in the third quarter, but costs were up by about £300m.

Next Tuesday share holders in BP will have to subscribe £290m, representing the second call on the £564m offer of shares by the Bank of England during the summer. Yesterday was the last day for dealing in the shares in partly-paid form and they closed 5p higher at 380p.

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SEC respite for trading rules

Washington, Dec 1
Mr Harold Williams, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, announced here today that the commission had decided to delay plans to eliminate rules that restricted off-board trading in listed securities. The SEC's plans, which involved elimination of these restrictive rules on January 1, have been a prime excuse of a large number of mergers in the brokerage business in recent months, as well as the cause of great anxiety.

Desire for financial independence turned to 'money-making for its own sake' How Crown Agents took high-risk way to ruin

By Bryan Appleyard

The Fay Report on the Crown Agents tells the story of an organization chasing financial independence and grabbing at the opportunity presented by the fringe banking and property boom of the late 1960s and early 1970s. "The agents' remarkable will to live" pushed them into a critical change in their financial operation in 1966. Previously profits from services had been distributed to the foreign government principals on a cooperative

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basis. This was abandoned in favour of a policy of building up a reserve of £5m by the end of 1971.

This was a move towards business independence and Fay accepts the motives as genuine enough. The timing, however, was the real problem.

The Crown Agents began to feel their own financial muscles at precisely the time when the mass of fringe banks and mushrooming property companies sprang up, all offering investment opportunities and looking for loans.

Once the process was started it moved quickly and by 1968 Fay observes the original motive for the adventures had been lost and replaced by "the satisfaction of money-making for its own sake".



Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, at yesterday's press conference. With her is Mr John Cuckney, Senior Crown Agent

A vehicle called Flinvest was set up and total liabilities "of the order of £50m" were accumulated after 18 months. The first property lending was in July 1967 and the first fringe bank appeared in October 1968 in the form of the First National Finance Corporation which was lent £1.1m.

In spite of the fact that there was only one accountant on the staff until November 1970, the alarm bells seem to have been remarkably few. One did ring at the Bank of England in 1969.

Since the 1950s the Agents had had a special arrangement with the Bank that allowed them to deal in Treasury bills later in the day than other customers. This was aimed at helping foreign governments to invest funds promptly.

In 1969 the Bank discovered this was being used for "own-account deals" and withdrew the facility. The Bank expressed concern to the Treasury, but its signal did not get as far as the Stevenson Committee. Fay believes this committee's line would have been much harder if the message had got through.

In the years that followed up to the eve of the property and banking crash the pattern was one of casual involvement in high risk ventures that were turned down by others even in those heady days.

The Table of Losses in the Fay Report adds up to £195.4m and is headed by £42.6m on the English and Continental Group, £41.2m on the Stern companies, £33.1m on Australian property development, £10m on Sterling Industrial Securities, £8.6m on Sassoons Bahamas, £5m on Triumph Investment Trust and C. T. Whyte.

Fay's conclusions point largely to the "financial authorities' failure to recognize and react to the impending crisis but the City is clearly involved by a minute from Flinvest's own board meeting of May 1967. Quoted in the report it said: "Arising out of the high standing of the Crown Agents in City financial circles we were now being approached by banks etc. wishing to lodge money with us at short notice."

Japanese curbs on rise of the yen push reserves to record \$22,150m

By Caroline Atkinson

Japan's reserves soared by \$2,570m (about £1,427m) in November to a record level of \$22,150m.

This is the second largest jump in their reserves ever recorded and results from the strenuous attempts of the Bank of Japan to hold down the value of the yen.

These attempts were at first largely unsuccessful. The yen appreciated to new highs on the foreign exchanges during last month.

However, in the last few days, the rate has come back. It closed last night at 242.8 to the dollar.

Speculative inflows of money

into Japan have swelled recently the official reserves in the same way as happened in Britain this year while the Government was trying to keep a lid on the sterling exchange.

The \$5,430m rise in Japan's reserves over the last year, is considerably below that in Britain.

Most of the rise in Japan has come in the last two months as the dollar has been falling and foreign currency dealers have switched into yen.

Despite the official intervention, the yen has climbed by about 10 per cent against the dollar since the end of September.

It is also thought that the

Japanese authorities have built up considerable "hidden" reserves. The fall in the yen in the past few days is largely due to the market's expectation that substantial measures to lower Japan's trade surplus will be announced in a government package next Tuesday.

The dollar was generally weaker yesterday as new positions were taken up at the beginning of the month. It fell to DM2.213, and 2.1425 Swiss francs.

Sterling also lost ground in effective terms, losing 0.2 points on the trade weighted index to close at 63.3. It gained 5 points against the dollar at 1.8175.

Assurance on bank lending 'corset'

By Our Economics Staff

If necessary, for money control, the Government will ram the "corset" on bank lending, although at the moment last week's 2-point rise in minimum-lending rate is expected to be sufficient according to replies given yesterday to written parliamentary questions on the Treasury.

The fall in interest rates

during the past year has saved about £200m to £250 in public spending in the current financial year, it was stated.

The Government's decision to allow M.L.R. to rise last week was also explained.

The authorities had recognized that the attempts to hold down the value of the pound had led to lower interest rates than

were justifiable in terms of domestic market pressures.

There was no clear trend yet observable in bank lending, and it was too soon to say that the high rise in October would be continued.

Treasury Ministers admitted that from mid-October to mid-October there was official concern about the speed of the fall in interest rates.

Barclays raises rate to depositors to 4½ pc

By Ronald Pullen

Banking Correspondent
With the more settled outlook for interest rates, Barclays Bank yesterday decided to move into line with National Westminster's lead earlier this week in raising its base rate 1½ points to 7½ per cent.

At the same time Barclays is raising its rate on overdrafts to 4½ per cent, the highest level of all the High Street banks.

Following the Bank of England statement yesterday that it saw no reason for a further rise in minimum lending rate today, the money markets calmed down, with three-month interbank rate shading back to 7 per cent and three-month Treasury bills stabilising at 6½ per cent.

Mr Douglas Horner, senior general manager of Barclays, said that with the Bank removing the uncertainty over interest rates "we are able to take a considered view of the right level for base rate". Barclays

also apparently feels that as the margin between base and deposit rates widened when rates fell earlier this year it was right to give its customers the benefit of a similar 1½-point rise.

Meanwhile, the Trustee Savings Bank and the Co-operative Bank have both followed Lloyds in raising their base rates from 5½ to 7 per cent and deposit rates from 3 to 4 per cent, although Grindlays has moved its base rate up 1½ points to 7½ per cent but has kept the overdraft rate to 1 point, at 4 per cent.

Both Lloyds and Midland, whose base rate increase of 1 point to 6½ per cent is the most aggressive of the clearers, are indicating a 7½ per cent base rate, Lloyds and Midland are likely to wait at least a fortnight before moving into line in order to see what is happening to loan and deposit rates at the branch level.

Peachy switch completed

By Our Financial Staff

Rescuing the board of Peachey Property has been completed with the resignation of Mr Michael Kennell and Mr Stephen Thompson.

With the exception of Lord Mait, who succeeded the late Sir Eric Miller as chairman of the company in March, the remaining directors were all appointed this year.

Mr Thompson, who was a director for a long time is to remain as an employee of the

company assisting in the management of its residential property. Mr Kennell, the former finance director, was elected to the board during the 1975-76 financial year.

Mr John Brown, former chief executive of Artagon Properties and now managing director of Peachey, said the company would now be concentrating on its property portfolio. There may be more appointments to the board, he said.

Early release of pledged state funds for planning construction projects forecast

Some of the £400m promised by the Government for construction from April next year may now be made available before that date, industry leaders were told yesterday.

Mr Gordon Graham, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a member of an eight-man all-industry delegation which met Mr Healey yesterday, said that the Chancellor was now prepared to release money which would allow preplanning of large projects to begin in the near future.

He had also accepted the delegation's argument that some civil engineering maintenance and rehabilitation work—both of which would have an immediate impact on unemployment—should go ahead before April.

Details of how this or possibly additional cash should be made available will be discussed further with Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, who also attended the meeting.

Mr Graham said that Mr

Healey had been told strongly that despite the aid already announced for the industry it was still in decline, and the increase in unemployment had not been arrested. Although Mr Healey's undertaking will have no immediate effect on these trends, it will do something to boost the confidence of the industry.

The meeting with the Chancellor follows earlier delegations to the Prime Minister and Mr Shore, and the group was anxious to use the opportunity to show Mr Healey and his Treasury advisers how the industry works and how it is affected by economic and fiscal policies.

The delegation stressed the need for a stable expansion of work, which it felt had too frequently in the past been used by the Government as an economic regulator.

The Chancellor, Mr Graham said, accepted that the industry had suffered disproportionately from Government policy changes in recent years.

More specifically, the dele-

gation was seeking a framework for the industry to plan ahead and meet the needs of the economy. It raised, for instance, the role of the Public Expenditure Survey Committee figures and the industrial strategy as a means of estimating the requirements of industry.

Other members of the delegation were Mr Peter Galliford, chairman of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors; Mr George Henderson, operations secretary of the Civil Engineering Construction Council; Mr David Male, president of quantity surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; Mr Peter Morley, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers; Mr Alan Muir Wood, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; Mr Jeremy Rowe, chairman of the National Council of Building Material Producers; and Mr George Smith, operations secretary of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry.

How the markets moved

The Times index : 200.64-0.30
The FT index : 479.8-1.2

Rises

Bank Chartering 10p to 12p
Deutsche 10p to 12p
Gibbs A 10p to 12p
Inglis Ind 10p to 12p
Normand Elect 10p to 12p
Pres W 10p to 12p
Roxco 10p to 12p

Falls

Bejan 10p to 12p
BP old 10p to 12p
Duncan W 10p to 12p
Furness Withy 10p to 12p
Glen 10p to 12p
Johnson Mat 10p to 12p
Nat of Aust 10p to 12p

Equities fell from a firm start. Gold-edged securities lost ground. Dollar premium 8.25 per cent (effective rate 28.01 per cent). Commodities : Rubber 100 points to 51.81. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.2.

On other pages

Business appointments 14, 28
Interim Statements: 24, 28
Bank Base Rates Table 26
Annual Statements: 22
Highland Distillers 22

Schroders 10p to 12p
Simpson S 10p to 12p
Edo Forbes 10p to 12p
Staffer 10p to 12p
Venterspost 10p to 12p
Vickers 10p to 12p
Warrington T 10p to 12p

Oil Explor 10p to 12p
Mottmacs 10p to 12p
Shell 10p to 12p
Sidlav 10p to 12p
Sun Alliance 10p to 12p
Trough Mines 10p to 12p
Utd Dom Tst 10p to 12p

Gold was unchanged at \$160.125 an ounce. SDR-5 was 1.18399 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.652934. Commodities : Rubber's index was at 1493.7 (previous 1490.5). Reports pages 25 and 26

THE POUND
Bank buys 1.65
Australia S 10.50
Austria S 10.50
Belgium Fr 66.00
Canada \$ 2.05
Denmark Kr 11.45
Finland Mk 7.25
France Fr 9.07
Germany Dm 4.22
Greece Dr 78.50
Hong Kong \$ 1.50
Italy L 162.00
Japan Yn 465.00
Netherlands Gld 4.54
Norway Kr 18.05
Portugal Esc 78.50
S Africa Rd 1.84
Spain Pes 156.50
Sweden Kr 9.00
Switzerland Fr 4.10
Yugoslavia Dnr 38.75

Rate for small denomination bank notes only. Excludes yesterday's Barclays Bank forward rate. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Bank of Ireland 28
Bank of New South Wales 26
Co-op Bank 28
Grindlays Bank 28
The Hongkong Bank Group 24
Standard Chartered Bank 28

Higher cost of private pensions

By Margaret Stoue

Long-term costs of the new state earnings-related pension scheme which comes into operation next April look likely to be a much bigger burden on private pension plans which have contracted out of the scheme than anyone had foreseen.

Calculations by the Government Actuary on the rearing of contributions announced yesterday show that although the rate for the National Insurance scheme will, after dropping to 15.7 per cent of defined earnings by 1992, will rise to no more than the present 16.5 per cent, the cost of contracted out schemes will have to pay much more to it by 2003-2008.

At present there is a combined (in respect of both employees and employers) cost of 16.5 per cent. The fact that contracted out schemes and not the state will be picking up the bill for the guaranteed minimum pension related pension to which everyone will be entitled.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted out employees will reduce increase from the present 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one expected corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

N Sea safety vessel

Sedco/Phillips SS, the world's first purpose-built semi-submersible fire-fighting vessel has arrived in Norway before going into service at the Phillips group's Ekofisk complex in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. The \$40m (£22m) vessel was built in Japan.

Lords ruling backs RTZ in American cartel case

By Desmond Quigley

Attempts by the United States Justice Department to force Rio Tinto-Zinc, the United Kingdom based international mining group, to provide information on the activities of a uranium cartel "constitute an invasion of sovereignty of the United Kingdom", Lord Dilhorne declared in the House of Lords yesterday.

He was giving judgment, with four other law lords in a series of appeals taken to the House of Lords by RTZ and Westinghouse Electric Corporation, the world's largest nuclear reactor manufacturer.

The law lords unanimously held that neither RTZ nor seven directors, including Sir Mark Turner, the chairman, and senior executives were obliged to present written or oral evidence under letters rogatory in a case in Richmond, Virginia.

Westinghouse was ordered to pay the costs of the Lords proceedings. Total costs for the series of court actions which have been heard in Britain this year in this case are estimated to run to about £250,000.

After judgment had been given, RTZ commented that the "judgment vindicates the position RTZ has taken over the past year of litigation in the English courts". The company's shares rose 4p to 190p yesterday.

The action centres on a declaration in 1975 by Westinghouse that it was unable to fulfil its uranium delivery contracts. Westinghouse is being sued in Virginia by several utilities (power companies) and faces a potential liability of up to \$2,000m (about £1,100m).

In its defence it has in part alleged that it was the victim of an international uranium cartel, of which RTZ is alleged to have been a member.

When Westinghouse sought to obtain evidence from RTZ directors, they pleaded the Fifth Amendment (an American legal device to avoid self-incrimination). The Justice Department then granted immunity from prosecution in an attempt to force the directors to testify.

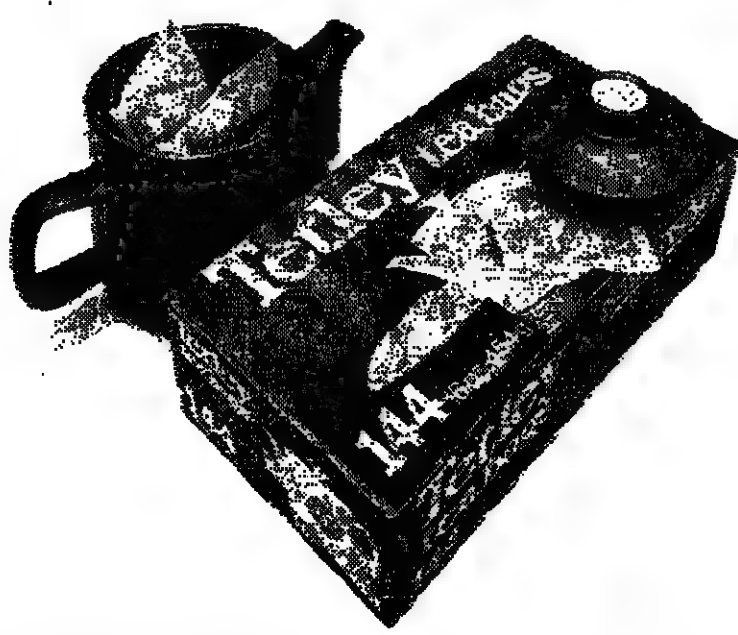
Concurrently with the Virginia action, a grand jury investigation, which was a criminal nature, is being held into the activities of uranium producers.

Lord Dilhorne found that it was "now clear beyond doubt" that the Justice Department had offered immunity of prosecution so as to acquire evidence for the grand jury investigation. He considered that this would render the company's privilege of little value and that the matter should be considered when the revision of company law was proposed.

The RTZ group and several other uranium producers still face an action brought by Westinghouse in Illinois, in which Westinghouse is seeking triple damages, which could be as much as \$6,000m. RTZ denies liability and with the exception of two companies domiciled in the United States also denies the jurisdiction of the Illinois Court.

Law Report, page 20

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British Gas in Monopolies panel scrutiny of appliance sector

A Monopolies Commission investigation of three main gas appliance sectors announced yesterday, will scrutinize the pricing and other policies of the British Gas Corporation which accounts for 75 per cent of the retail side of this £120m-a-year market.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has asked the Commission to report within two years on sales of gas cookers, gas fires and instantaneous gas water heaters.

This will mean an investigation of appliance manufacturers, of which three—Thorn, United Gas Industries and Tube Investments—are thought to be in a monopoly manufacturing position of at least 25 per cent of their market in each of the three appliance sectors.

Mr Borrie's preliminary investigations have shown that

substantial discount prices have been obtained by British Gas from manufacturers because of their retail dominance.

But British Gas prices for appliances have nevertheless tended to be higher than those charged by other suppliers, mainly department stores and some discount outlets.

Part of these wider margins might be attributable to the after sales and spares service which British Gas provides, said Mr Borrie. "They might also reflect some subsidizing of relatively low charges for servicing and may also subsidize such things as uneconomic showroom."

The Commission has been asked to look into complaints from independent retailers of difficulties in getting delivery from manufacturers, possibly because British Gas has had

preferential treatment in deliveries. There have in some cases been complaints of delays of several months.

The role of British Gas in carrying out the larger part of the advertising for all the appliances will also be looked at because it might be felt that an independent retailers may get less opportunity to expand in the market.

Mr Borrie wants the Commission to look into whether the manufacturers' close ties with British Gas have played a role in their not developing a wide network for after-sales servicing such as exists for electrical appliances.

The Commission will also scrutinize the manufacturers' export performance which since 1973 has been significantly inferior to that of foreign competitors' penetration of the British market.

EEC 'stops clock' to complete talks with textile exporting countries on quotas

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Talks continued today between the EEC and a number of major textile exporting countries despite the expiry at midnight yesterday of the deadline set by the European Commission for the conclusion of these bilateral negotiations with more than 30 countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

EEC officials said that "the clock had been stopped" to enable "intensive" discussions to continue with Hongkong, South Korea, Hungary, Romania, Poland and about half a dozen Mediterranean countries with whom the Community has preferential trade agreements.

The Commission claimed that there was a large measure of agreement with Hongkong, which is the EEC's biggest supplier with about 15 per cent of total imports of low-cost textiles in recent years. There

was a good chance of reaching agreement tomorrow, officials said.

But according to Mr David Jordan, Hongkong's Director of Trade, Industry and Customs, there was "still one major element" in the EEC's proposals which was unacceptable. The EEC was demanding that Hongkong reduce its exports of four categories of textiles to below the 1976 level. Hongkong could see no justification for this, Mr Jordan said. The reduction was being requested to protect the EEC industry but to enable Hongkong's quota to be redistributed to other suppliers.

Initially, the EEC demanded that Hongkong cut its textile exports from the 1976 level of 151,000 tonnes to about 138,000 tonnes. It now seems likely that Hongkong will be allowed a higher import quota provided it accepts sharp cuts in a number of very sensitive items.

The South Koreans have

agreed to the restraints demanded by the commission for their 1978 textile exports, but want the permitted growth rates to be reviewed thereafter. This is unacceptable to the commission.

Talks with India and Brazil, two of the EEC's major suppliers, were concluded yesterday, but the commission was able to reach agreement only by interpreting somewhat liberally the terms of the negotiating mandate it was given by the Council of Ministers, representing the nine member states. It remains to be seen whether the outcome will be acceptable to the nine.

The hope in Brussels is that at least provisional agreements will be concluded tomorrow to put the EEC in a better position to ward off expected attacks from supplier countries when the textile committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade meets early next week in Geneva.

Rolls hope of fresh deal with China

China is interested in buying Rolls-Royce engines for a range of industrial and marine applications, including the pumping of gas and oil, a senior company executive said yesterday.

Mr Donald Pepper, Rolls-Royce vice-chairman, gave the news during a visit by Mr Li Chang, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, to the company's Derby factory.

He said China had expressed an interest in a number of Rolls-Royce products in addition to present purchases, and he forecast that the company was in the early stages of a relationship with China which could develop greatly over the next 20 to 30 years.

Rolls-Royce have had close links with China for many years. The company claimed a major deal worth nearly £100m two years ago.

Best use of oil and revival of industry seen as top goals

By Caroline Atkinson

How best to use North Sea oil and how to stop, and if possible reverse, the decline of Britain's manufacturing sector were yesterday named as Britain's main industrial goals.

Sir Ronald McLaren, the retiring Director General of the National Economic Development Office, made these points in the 1977 Sir Alfred Herbert paper presented to the Institution of Production Engineers at Leicester University.

Sir Ronald said that Britain's non-economic achievements of the last 30 years—chiefly the establishment of a welfare state and the peaceful transition from an imperial power to a member of the EEC—were significant.

However, the economic price paid for them, in terms of slow growth, was a heavy one.

Three main objectives for in-

dustrial policy were set out, with the aim of combating the serious threat to employment and exports by the emergence of semi-industrialized developing countries as efficient manufacturers, and improving Britain's industrial performance.

First, Britain should concentrate on producing goods and services with a high research and development content, using the considerable skills available.

Secondly, the basic infrastructure of the engineering industry should be strengthened. This would not come about just through market forces, Sir Ronald said. Policy on taxation and using intervention in industry through the National Enterprise Board should be aimed at helping the manufacture of components and machines.

Thirdly, the marketing function in industry should be improved.

Mr Varley may make statement on steel crisis before recess

By Peter Hill Industrial Correspondent

The Government may make an interim statement on the measures to cope with the British Steel Corporation's financial crisis before the Christmas recess.

Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, told an all party committee of MPs investigating the affairs of the corporation last night: "I would certainly consider whether it would be possible and whether I would have anything to say before the House goes into recess."

He explained that a further meeting was due to take place between the BSC and the TUC's Steel Industry Committee. Others would follow, and it was hoped that a full meeting could be arranged early in the New Year.

Neither Mr Varley, nor Mr Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, would be drawn into details of the measures which were being proposed.

Mr Varley, questioned about the corporation's financial position in the light of a half year loss of £20m and expected loss for the full year of at least £50m, said that since the establishment of the corporation's £950m cash limit at the end of last year the deterioration in the expected out-turn had been between £25m and £30m.

Of this about £130m was being covered by reductions in the BSC's capital spending programme, while the balance of

savings had been achieved through lower requirements for stocks and work in progress as a result of lower levels of activity.

He stressed, however, that the Government, the TUC and the BSC were not going to be rushed into panic measures. Such action would lead to calamitous problems for the steel industry and for the country at large.

Mr Varley clearly indicated that there will be cuts in the capital spending programme and closure of some of BSC's old plants which are draining its cash resources by £100m a year.

"I believe that a country like the United Kingdom must have a substantial steel industry. This is the reason why I want to see some of the steel investment take place."

"At the same time I want to see some of the obsolete equipment taken out of production in a rational and humane way."

Redundancies: A leading union official at the British Steel Corporation in Corby, Northants, conceded yesterday that 1,200 of the 12,000 workforce must be made redundant.

Mr John Cowling, a national executive member of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, has previously opposed the management's redundancy plans. But yesterday he said: "After considering all the facts I am now reluctantly convinced that we must cut our losses now, however painful that might be. These jobs at Corby must go."

No Leyland plant move for Dolomite

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars has been forced to drop plans to move production of its Dolomite saloons from Canby, Coventry, to the new £90m plant at Rover Solihull.

But the company insisted yesterday that the move was a commercial decision, and not because of the year-long campaign waged by Triumph shop stewards to keep car production in Coventry.

They mounted this campaign after the company announced plans to convert Canby into an important engine production centre by concentrating assembly of both Triumph and Leyland cars at Solihull.

In a statement yesterday Leyland Cars said it had changed its mind because of its continuing inability to meet demand for the Rover 3500 and the recently-announced smaller versions, the Rover 2300 and 2600.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production with the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

Poor year for seaside hoteliers

By Patricia Tisdall

English seaside hotels this year had their worst summer since 1971, according to figures released by the English Tourist Board yesterday.

The board's own estimates, which had been weathered by the public, showed a sharp drop in the number of holidaymakers who came to the coast to spend the summer.

In August, traditionally the peak month for seaside hotels, occupancy levels were only 78 per cent compared with 83 per cent for the same month a year ago and were the lowest recorded by the board.

In contrast, London hotels had some of their highest occupancy rates. Average London hotels had 83 per cent of their beds and more than 90 per cent of rooms occupied during July.

During the eight months from January to August, the London hotels achieved a monthly average of 67 per cent of beds occupied, an increase of 12 per cent on the year before.

The biggest rise during July and August was in non-central and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourists from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

Hint that Carter Bill on energy may be passed soon

From Frank Vogt Washington, Dec 1

Congressman Thomas O'Neill, the leader of the United States House of Representatives, asserted today that the Congress is likely to approve President Carter's energy programme this month, so paving the way for general tax cutting proposals in January.

The President has boldly warned the Congress that he will only propose tax reductions if the Congress swiftly approves his energy and social security tax programme. Thus the actions of the Congress this month are of critical importance in determining the outlook for the United States economy in 1978.

Congressman O'Neill admitted that little progress is now being seen in the conference of House and Senate leaders on the final shape of an energy Bill.

Yesterday the President confirmed for the first time that he plans to propose tax cuts early in the New Year and that broader tax reform plans will be postponed. But, he noted at

a press conference that he will not decide the details of the tax cuts until Congress has acted on his energy and social security legislation.

Top Administration officials have been privately arguing for some weeks that combining tax cuts with comprehensive revision of the tax code will produce an exceptionally long debate in the Congress. This will lead to stalling the implementation of tax reductions that will be vital if the United States is to achieve a 5 per cent real rate of gross national product growth next year.

The President said yesterday that "some of the more controversial items on tax reform that have been proposed to me—where there would be very little monetary significance—might be delayed until later on because I feel that it is necessary to expedite the effectiveness of substantial tax reduction."

By "substantial" it is widely assumed that the President has in mind general tax cuts totalling \$20,000m (£11,111m).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attitudes to directive on commercial agents

From Mr N. E. Carter

Sir, It was pleasing to read in your paper today (November 29) the views of Mr Clive Schmitthoff, Professor of International Business Law at the City University and the University of Essex.

My Association is substantially in agreement with Mr Schmitthoff, except that we see no need to start again after so many years.

The Commission in Brussels has continually stressed that the draft directive is for discussion and amendment between the member states. The legal affairs committee of the European Parliament has approved the draft directive subject to a number of amendments which it recommends should be discussed between the Commission and the member states.

Excepting only the United Kingdom the Community is in broad agreement on the necessity for a directive of the nature envisaged. It is left to the British Law Commission to advance the theory that while the draft directive is *intra vires* the Treaty of Rome it is, nevertheless, ultra vires.

for some unexplained reason, not even worth consideration as a basis for negotiation!

Her Majesty's Government and the Department of Industry have been aware of the EEC Commission's draft directive for a number of years, and have consistently failed to give the matter serious consideration until recently when the text was forwarded to the Council of Ministers—the patience of the remaining Eight and of the Commission having become exhausted.

We do wish, however, that even Mr Schmitthoff would refrain from confusing the issue by regarding commercial agents (manufacturers' agents) with commercial travellers and representatives. They are two quite separate breeds, the former being independent and the latter employed persons.

Yours faithfully, N. E. CARTER, Secretary, The Manufacturers' Agents' Association, PO Box 8, Majestic House, Stained, Middlesex, TW18 4DP.

Use of the term 'engineer'

From Dr R. A. Buchanan

Sir, While sympathizing with Sir Hugh Ford's complaint (letters, November 24) that there is no uniform usage of the word "engineer" in English, it should be observed that the position is in fact more complicated than he suggests. Ever since the term acquired its modern industrial and non-military associations in the Industrial Revolution, there has been a tradition of applying it both to "professional" and to "artisan" engineers.

In the latter category, skilled workmen have called themselves (and been called) engineers at least since the formation of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in 1851, through to the Amalgamated Engineering Union of our own time. The usage was confirmed by the ease with which many artisan engineers moved up into the ranks of the professional engineers, although to be fair it must be said that those who did so like Nasmyth and Fairbairn were rarely sympathetic to trade unionism.

Point 'missed' on architects

From Mr J. H. Dolman

Sir, I am sorry to have to tell John Burckett (November 28) and others who have written to you expressing disbelief about the Government's hasty acceptance of the Monopolies Commission report on Architects, that they have missed the point.

The point is that the Government has a certain political ideology which calls for specific end results. Because of this, it will accept a report, and it will interpret this report in order to provide the justification for the desired result.

The decision on the abolition of fixed scales, as any lawyer will tell you (as fixed scales were abolished some years ago in the legal profession) is just one more example of executive action being taken by this Government in support of a social objective which derives from a fixed political ideology. Logic, as Mr Burckett points out, had nothing to do with the Government's decision to accept the report.

To criticize the Government for acting unreasonably in accepting the report is therefore of no constructive use. The only thing that Mr Burckett and architects in general can do is to absorb the political lesson and then if they

ever get the chance to act on it, presumably by voting according to whether or not they approve of the social engineering objectives which the Government is apparently pursuing.

As a crumb of comfort, it should be pointed out that the abolition of fixed scales in the legal profession enabled that profession to raise its charges during a period of rapidly increasing inflation. The result of the Government's action was therefore completely the reverse of that intended.

The architects' profession is, of course, in a different position, and one can well foresee the closure of smaller practices when construction work is at a low ebb, and when the Government wants to get the construction industry booming, one can foresee a lack of capacity within the profession, which lack of capacity may well reflect itself in increased fees for those architects then still in practice. Mr Burckett must not confuse the Government's intended social engineering objective with what in practice may happen.

Yours faithfully, J. H. DOLMAN, Forge Mill Farm, Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcester, November 29.

Moreover, it could be argued that the professional engineers have sacrificed any claim to the use of the unqualified term "engineer" by the assiduous way in which, over the last hundred years, they have encouraged the specialization of the profession into a large number of independent sections, all possessing their own specialist institutions, qualifications and entrance requirements.

It is much to be hoped that, by utilizing to define the competence of chartered professional engineers, these independent institutions are at last moving towards the common view of their profession which is necessary if it is to enjoy the public esteem which it deserves. But in achieving this goal it should be content with the designation "chartered engineer" and not attempt to claim a monopoly on a word which is already in use for purposes more general than those recognized by the profession.

Yours faithfully, R. A. BUCHANAN, Director, Centre for the Study of the History of Technology, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, November 29.

Dismissal claims

From Mr J. Marshall

Sir, The financial burden upon employers which presently results from claims of unfair dismissal could be greatly reduced by a simple change.

Mr Mordaley in his letter of November 15 referred to the fact that costs can be awarded to one party in an industrial national award or the other has used frivolously or vexatiously. But such cases are few and far between; a positive abuse of court process must be involved, otherwise each party pays their own costs.

There are many more applications which are doomed to failure or likely to fail, without being frivolous. Most of those would be abandoned if costs were generally awarded against the unsuccessful party, as in any other civil action.

Yours faithfully, J. MARSHALL, Ryland, Marlow, Bucks, 41 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2DY.

AMC Announcement

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited announce that with effect from 1st December, 1977 the rate of interest for

ALL EXISTING VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be 10½% This rate will remain in force until the next review date which will be—

(a) 1st MARCH, 1978—for borrowers whose loans are reviewable quarterly.

(b) 1st JUNE, 1978—for borrowers whose loans are reviewable half-yearly.

Until further notice, the rate of interest which will apply to

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For full details of this and other facilities please contact AMC, Bucklebury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4N 8DU. Tel: 01-246 6711.

Highland Distilleries



Mr. J. A. R. Macphail, Chairman, reported continuing progress at the Annual General Meeting held in Glasgow on 1st December 1977.

- * Turnover increased by 37% from £22,095,000 to £30,200,000
- * Profits before tax increased by a similar percentage from £2,436,000 to £3,354,000
- * Earnings per share rose by 46% from 14.6p to 6.7p
- * Proposed total dividend up from £2.585p to 2.887p

(adjusted for bonus issue) includes S.S.A.T's adjustment.

The increase in turnover was accounted for entirely by the performance of "The Famous Grouse" where Home Trade sales were 38% ahead of last year. Export sales were up by 132% compared with last year's somewhat modest base.

Looking ahead the Chairman said "There does seem to be a more hopeful feeling in the industry than for some time past. Prospects for 'The Famous Grouse' subject always to the qualification of no Government interference, are at the very least encouraging."

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.



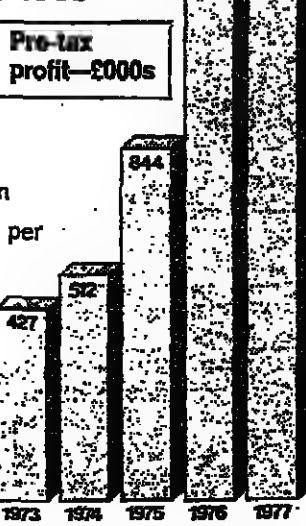
Walter LAWRENCE

Building, contracting and engineering group

Improved Profits

The directors report on a successful year.

- * Pre-tax profit up to £1,340,000
- * Turnover up to £30 million
- * Total dividend up to 6.5p per share against 5.5p
- * Financial resources sound and available to finance acquisitions
- * Diversifying to counter building industry cycle



Copies of the report and accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Walter Lawrence Ltd, Lawrence House, Sun Street, Sandridge, Hertfordshire, SG8 1LX.

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Interim Report

	Half-year ended 30th September 1977	Half-year ended 30th September 1976
	£000	£000
Group Sales	14,540	12,419
Ophthalmic Group	4,496	3,771
Catering Equipment Group	19,036	16,190
Group Profit before Taxation	1,466	1,403
Ophthalmic Group	445	399
Catering Equipment Group	1,901	1,802
Total	912	901
Less: Taxation, estimated	4	4
Minority Interests		
Group Profit attributable to Members	985	897

Ophthalmic Group. Demand at home and abroad has remained well below normal levels throughout the half year. However, the group is well placed in all markets to take immediate advantage of an upturn in demand.

Catering Equipment Group. Sales and profits of the catering equipment group's products were satisfactory during the half year. Prospects for exports are brighter than for some time.

Dividend. The directors are recommending an interim dividend of 2.93p per share, compared with 2.87p per share in the corresponding period of last year.

UKO International Limited, Bittaby Hill, London NW7 1EN

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

BP-with Alaskan earnings to come

BP's product sales are heavily weighted towards Western Europe, and its trading performance, like that of so many other companies which are strong in this area, duly reflects the dismal conditions compounded in France's case by price controls—prevailing in most markets. Weak demand has been reflected in prices so that, while costs are up, realizations are down and with the dollar weak as well, third-quarter net income of £44.1m is a good £5m or more below the lower range of stock market forecasts. It is a depressingly familiar story, and leave BP's net income down both on the £75.7m of the second quarter and the £51.9m of the third-quarter last year, although for the first three quarters earnings are up from £124m to £210m.

But the key for BP, and the factor which makes it a more attractive investment than Shell, is the transformation it is about to undergo. During the third quarter Alaskan oil began to flow for the first time. The build-up has had some teething problems, leaving BP with both a \$16m loss on its share of the pipeline and lower earnings from its stake in Sohio, but in the final quarter Alaska should be positive and it will then feed through very strongly indeed during the first-half of next year, culminating in an increase in the Sohio stake from about 40 per cent at the end of this year to 53 per cent, probably by about next June.

The impact on 1978 earnings, given that Forties will still be building up as well, will be dramatic. Net income will almost certainly be more than doubled from this year's likely £300m or more, with the prospect of still more impressive growth to come in the subsequent two years.

Meanwhile, there is reason to look for more good news for BP, both in terms of its North Sea exploration and the level of Alaskan reserves which should do much to offset the continuing dullness of its main European markets. So far there is no sign of a trading upturn, but BP's shares, 90p last night where they sell at about 11 times prospective earnings, should be held more for the fundamental prospects of the next three years than the immediate trading conditions.

Racal

Profits are not the problem

Racal is now holding its breath hoping that the cold wind blowing from the Old Bailey, where two former executives face corruption charges, will die down. Meanwhile, with £19.4m profits under its belt at the interim stage, the group is forecasting not less than £45 for the year—an indicated 37 per cent gain which since it will probably turn out to be conservative anyway fits in well with the sort of compound growth Racal has been achieving for several years now. When a company grows as fast as this questions are bound to be asked about whether the pace can be sustained.

The factor coupled with the resignation of Racal's deputy chairman this week ensured that yesterday's half-year statement would get a less than enthusiastic reception from the market. The shares, weak for some time now, added the day 1p better at 208p. Here Racal followers are beginning to put up cogent arguments for a "buying opportunity"—though given a yield of only 2.8 per cent that must be based on the assumption that Racal remains one of the few real growth stocks around.

It is true that at the moment everything seems to be going well. The only slight cloud so far this year—and one which already shows signs of disappearing—is strategic communications. Otherwise, Racal can point to profits of some £10m due this year from data communications, an undoubted growth area which suggests that the acquisition of Milgo in the United States earlier this year was right despite the fact that it temporarily changed the profile of the balance sheet.

Still, with some £48m of cash and real progress being made towards rescheduling dollar debt after the Milgo acquisition, Racal is well able to make another sizable move in the near future, if badly wanted to get involved in any restructuring of the telecommunications business in this country and there are signs that the Government, NEB and the Post Office would now like to see changes of this sort take place.

But Racal, as I have said before, is at an important transitional stage between being

a large medium-sized company and a large company. Moreover, untoward factors are making that transition painful, a point that is not lost on the institutions who have for some time been heavy investors in Racal. Their attitude, more than anything else, will dictate what happens to the share price during the next six months, and at the moment they show characteristic signs of nervousness.

Bass

Lifting the depression

Results from Bass Charrington yesterday went some way towards dispersing the clouds of gloom which had been gathering over the brewery sector even before Whitbread announced disappointing results earlier this month.

But, as Bass itself points out ahead of delicate discussions with Mr Hattersley, most of the 32 per cent pre-tax profits increase to £90.4m is due to loss



Mr Derek Palmer, chairman of Bass Charrington.

elimination; last year's figures being depressed by a £4.5m provision against the value of Bordeaux wine stocks and a cautious £7.4m provision for exchange differences.

So, faith in Bass's defensive characteristics which has seen the shares outperform the market by twice the 14 per cent sector average over the last 12 months has been further enhanced. The shares gained 9p to 161p yesterday where the p/e ratio is well in line with the industry average at under 10 and the yield rather lower at just over 4 per cent.

That could provide the cue for some profit-taking, particularly as there are fears that Mr Hattersley will come down on the side of the recent controversial Price Commission report on the industry.

But Bass still has two axes up its sleeve: one concerns the view that beer sales could start to move ahead again sharply on the back of a consumer spending upturn, with larger leading the way. The other is the dividend: this year's payment is 3.4 times covered and a boost of at least 50 per cent would be possible if restraints are lifted.

Such unevenness between the two halves at National and Commercial Bankings—pre-tax profits were only 5 per cent ahead at £31.1m in the opening half but jumped 12 per cent to £35m in the second despite the 4 per cent drop in average base rate to 8.4 per cent—is not altogether explained by the one third widening of the margin between base and deposit rates to 4.35 per cent in the second half.

There were, it is true, some compensating factors in the shape of continued momentum in the level of advances, especially at Royal Bank of Scotland, which were 6 per cent ahead on the year, profit from gifts (franchise rights rather than realizations) are amortized over a five-year period, and a £1.2m increase in associates thanks to increased profits from Lloyds & Scottish, FFI and loss elimination in Australia.

But it also looks as though the sterling money book recovered some of its composure after a dicey first-half while the rise in bad debt provisions in the first-half may have tailed off.

So, looks as though NatCom's results, normally a bit of a guide to the London clearing profits because only a quarter of its earnings are overseas, may be misleading. The shares gained 4p to 74p on this results where the yield of 5.4 per cent is about par for the sector.

On May 13, 1974, a meeting was held in Whitehall attended by Sir Jasper Hollar, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Douglas Warr, the Treasury Permanent Secretary. Also present was Sir Claude Hayes, senior Crown Agent. In the words of Sir Jasper: "We went into that meeting perfectly convinced that the Crown Agents were honest, were capable of being honest."

The collapse of the Crown Agents-backed Stern property group was a shock and no one had any illusions about the possible impact. What was more critical, no one had a backup sheet. Then and there, a Crown Agent officer drafted one on the back of an envelope.

This, for the purposes of history, was the moment of truth after the years of preparation in high places during which a string of journalists vainly drew attention to the vulnerability of an unincorporated historic organization providing a honey-pot for speculative financiers and property developers.

Yesterday's report of the three-man committee of inquiry is one of the most astonishing documents to be produced in modern times, chronicling what the Government has immediately described as a failure to apply the normal principles of public accountability.

No one escapes criticism—the accounting Ministry of Overseas Development, the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Exchequer and Audit Department, individual Crown Agents and their staff, advisers, and some businessmen.

No one who has followed the tangled story of the Crown Agents' rescue by the able Mr John Cuckney, backed by Government pledges of support and a grant, can fail to be impressed by the thoroughness of the Fay report

Maurice Corina assesses the 24-year-long investigation into the Crown Agents

A chronicle of catastrophe

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated

after two years of evidence.

They now have, too, the previously confidential report prepared by a team led by Sir Matthew Stevenson, which before the storm broke had advised redefining the status of the organization established in 1853 to raise loans and procure supplies for colonial governments.

It is a matter of fact that in October 1968, when Sir Claude Hayes succeeded as chairman of the Crown Agents, *The Times* in examining the organization then being placed in a new framework commented on its anomalous constitution and accountability and stated: "The checks that do exist are mild and virtually ineffective."

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against the findings of the report by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of

this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have already assisted in getting at the facts, but the importance of the Fay inquiry was that it enabled the actions or inaction of departments of state and the Bank of England to be examined by independent people rigorously looking at all the circumstances.

It has always been argued that public exposure of the matters now discussed by the Fay report could damage the Crown Agents. But for the assistance of Mrs Judith Hart, the minister whose scepticism appears well justified, publication might have been conveniently avoided.

Yet, whatever the losses of the agents, which are still beyond estimate (and therefore the liabilities to public funds cannot be assessed) there are signs that the traditional services of the agents in buying and providing services to overseas principals have not been damaged. Business is at a record level and deposits are as high as ever.

The Crown Agents record of companies it supported and dealt with speaks for itself. Many no longer exist, drowned

in spite of lifeboats sent out from the City, and those saved are changed by the experience.

Until the Crown Agents are completely disengaged from the property and secondary banking sectors, no one can predict the ultimate loss. The deficit on property and banking investment has already totalled £212m but it is still in Parliament's recent records that, for an emergency Moneylenders Act, there may have been exposure to a risk of £400m.

The thoroughness of Fay can be judged from the fact that it met on 85 occasions and took evidence from 46 witnesses, using the analogy of a Companies Act investigation though the Crown Agents were not a company.

Evidence was not taken from the former money market manager, Mr Bernard Wheatley, who died in July while awaiting trial upon charges of corruption. Mr Sidney Davidson, a solicitor, who, the Fay report says, saw fit not to respond to telephone messages or letters and the committee "must assume that he declines to give evidence."

Catastrophe, says Fay, is not too strong a word to use. Only a few individuals among the

hundreds on the Crown Agents staff were involved in the "own account" activities which led to inferior investments and the enormous provisions. The sad fact, notes the report, is that these few managed to involve an organization whose main work has been well run and held the confidence of principals abroad throughout.

While a new inquiry concerned with any alleged breach of duty now to be set in hand, the future of the Crown Agents has yet to be resolved. A White Paper, published in April, 1976, has indicated the Government's intention that the Agents should become a legal entity through incorporation by statute. The functions and powers of a sponsoring minister could then be defined. On incorporation, the intention has been to give the organization a proper capital structure and borrowing powers appropriate to the assets, liabilities and on-going activities.

In the meantime, the Crown Agents, under Mr Cuckney, survives only on the basis of ministerial declarations of support and the original £55m grant, which is clearly out of all proportion to the liabilities set down in a special realization account (at present enabling the organization to disengage from unwise investments of the past).

There is no doubt that Mr Cuckney is never fighting against impossible odds, given the nature of the liabilities and the need to invest even more money—such as in Australian property—to reduce the potential losses. He has done a first-class job. But, sooner rather than later, the Government must act to clarify the Crown Agents' status and to determine the appropriate accountability to Parliament.

Only then will a sorry chapter in an otherwise distinguished 144 years of operations be said to be over.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Breaking down the engineers' stockades

There is a literal and unpalatable truth in the oft-repeated reference to the "explosive" growth of technology. Explosions change their environment in a catastrophic manner; they are irreversible and, once they have consumed the resource that has sustained them, they blow themselves out.

So, with technology, in particular, "renewing" which sustained technology in the past are becoming exhausted. New constraints surround the engineer and, if technology (like engineering) is to survive, it will be in a very different shape.

This parallel has been drawn by Sir Iwan Maddock, formerly Chief Scientist at the Department of Industry and now Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In his recent Jubilee Lecture at Imperial College, London, Sir Iwan posed the question: "Does engineering have a future?"

The new constraints are not caused simply by the depletion of resources such as cheap energy supplies and minerals, though this is one of the problems. The growth of population increases demands on dwindling resources and the "third world" countries are rightly demanding their share of the world's scarce and precious resources.

Congestion of various amenities is evident in city centres, sea routes, air lanes, beaches, inland waterways, the radio frequency spectrum and so on. There is also growing public opposition to the intrusion of new technologies which are seen as sources of nuisance or danger; an increasing feeling that the advance of technology is dehumanizing; and a growing conviction that unemployment is increasing all over the advanced world because of structural changes produced by technological change.

Faced with this melancholy

catalogue, engineers must take account of the new constraints. To design aircraft without regard to the problems of noise, fuel consumption or polluting emissions will be just as irresponsible as inadequate attention to the laws of aerodynamics, metal fatigue or combustion technology.

To conceive clever computer control systems for manufacturing machinery without considering the effect on the pattern of employment, of job interest or the ability of the people who operate the machines to adapt, will no longer be acceptable.

Thus, the engineers of tomorrow, Sir Iwan points out, will be a new portfolio of skills. They will be faced with five major changes:

First, the concept of ever-expanding national economies based on large enterprises will become hard to justify. New measures of "value" will emerge, where volume or abundance will be replaced by demand for quality, style, elegance or convenience.

The habit of producing league tables of rates of growth of gross national product will become less relevant. It is already misleading to equate the economy with "manufacturing" and technologists seem to overlook the service industries as a component of the economy and of the complete social machine.

Secondly, the need to be thrifty in the use of precious resources will become dominant. An open-ended consumer society based only on the price regulator will not be adequate. The two main shortages will come from the limitations of energy supply and the depletion of the more critical minerals.

The importance of the quest for new sources of energy is already recognized, but much more attention must be paid to the ways in which energy is

'To design aircraft without regard to the problems of noise, fuel consumption or polluting emissions will be just as irresponsible as inadequate attention to the laws of aerodynamics, metal fatigue or combustion technology'

consumed. Two thirds of the energy put into power stations is discarded, usually to the detriment of the environment. The wastage of energy in space heating, in transport and in the manufacture of materials such as steel, aluminium, copper, cement and paper is vast.

"The future society", Sir Iwan says, "will have to conserve and make use of its waste heat, avoid needless escape of energy and find less energy-consuming methods for travel and communications and, above all, in the manufacture of materials."

Recycling of materials will become an essential part of the management of resources. The lifetimes of products which are material-intensive (and energy-intensive) will have to be extended to reduce the recycling burden.

In the light of modern technology, for example, there is no need—other than the demands of fashion and the need to keep factories fully employed—for the motor car to be scrapped and recycled every 10 years or so. Corrosion-free, fatigue-resistant materials already exist; the effects of wear can be minimised and, also, ultimately dealt with by small component replacement.

The same applies to a wide range of plant and manufacturing machines, but a very different attitude on the part of designers and makers is called for.

More and more the deliberate design for longevity will become necessary. Sir Iwan predicts, with modular concepts of assembly so that worn or broken items can be replaced, or outmoded designs updated, by local sub-assemblies, without the need to scrap machines.

Thirdly, it will become more important to "add value" by using skills rather than by simple exploitation of bulk material or energy resources. Fourthly, the distribution of wealth among the countries of the world will change as supplies become more scarce. The rate at which technology is dif-

fused among countries will continue to increase, following the example of the rapid absorption of new technology by such countries as Japan, Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore, South Korea and the Philippines.

Thus the export of goods will become less common and the export of technology more common.

Finally, the types of technology that are needed are likely to change—away from the advanced "super star" technologies towards the medium-level ones that are industrially and socially valuable; away from those which have high demands in terms of energy and raw materials; and away from those that are capital-intensive towards those that show high added-value and are labour-intensive.

For the engineer these changes will mean challenges that are much more demanding than those of the past. It would help, Sir Iwan argues, if the technological stockades, that have been built around the traditional branches of engineering (and are being perpetuated by the professional engineering institutions) were demolished.

The engineer of the future (and many of those of today) will need to draw on a wide range of disciplines. His task will be not merely to apply established engineering skills—but to harness and adapt the qualities of nature to solve special needs of growing complexity.

Business Diary: ASTMS's Tories • An auctioneer's lot

The Conservative Party Central Office begs to announce the birth of its first single-unit Conservative Trade Unionist Group, all of whose members are in Clive Jenkins's white collar union ASTMS.

Jenkins's union was chosen not so much because he is one of the farthest on the TUC general council, but because every one of the CTU committees up and down the country has at least one ASTMS member.

The new body has arisen from a meeting in London of party officials and of Tory ASTMS members, and will be chaired by David White, a senior foreman with the British Leyland subsidiary Rover Cars of Solihull.

White's members come not only from BL but from ICI, "hell and Kodak among others." TV leader John Birt is a hitherto specialist in industry, and there are now conservative trade unionists organizing in the media, local government, teaching and transport.

White and his group will try to persuade more ASTMS members to attend and vote at union meetings, and the official aim of lobbying for union elections and to get MPs of parties other than Labour on to ASTMS's parliamentary group. Lastly, they hope that along the way they will be able to catch the Tory Party a little more about trade unions.

British auctioneers are busy in America selling art and antiques. American auctioneer Norman Levy, however, is bringing a field day here at losing sales of British firms.

This week he is supervising the last rites at the Wolverhampton plant of Norton Villiers Triumf, which went into liquidation two years ago. Next week he will be in Dundee doing the same at National Cash Registers and then on to Glasgow for yet another wake.

Operating from his base in Springfield, Michigan, Levy is cornering a fat slice of the British market in closure sales and doing quite well in Europe too. He now has offices in London and branches in provincial centres such as Birmingham.

Last year he auctioned the contents of the old BSA plant at Small Heath, Birmingham. He has done similar jobs for CEC, Vickers, and Handley Page.

The secret seems to be his ability to attract so many international buyers. When there are a number of auctions—as at present—they follow around the country like professional mourners. Yesterday there were buyers from the United States, France, Italy, Singapore and Jordan.

One of his colleagues broke away from the Wolverhampton sale to tell us: "It is a question of knowing the market and how to reach it. For instance, we prepare as many as 50,000 coloured brochures listing the plants and equipment available. These are then sent to possible buyers, many of whom are known to us personally."

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British Airways, which made only two-thirds of its projected operating profit in the half year to September, is being taken for a ride by a character called Dilbert.

Dilbert is a young aeroplane of indeterminate make who wears BA colours and lives at Heathrow Airport. He is the mascot of the airline's Young Travellers' Club and has appeared hitherto in the pages of the club magazine and on airline bags and tee-shirts.

Now, however, Dilbert—who was dreamed up by BA's Australian advertising agency—takes off on a new venture, carrying British Airways into the highly competitive atmosphere of children's books. He is to be the hero of 10 books, the first four of which—Dilbert

jumbo of a work, *The History of the Exchequer*. The Dilbert books will be produced by a BA publishing associate, Threshold Books, and published independently by Wayland Publishers.

Incidentally, Ms Robertson's mother, Elizabeth Beresford, is the creator of those wretched Wombles. Would that in some future yard Dilbert would swoop down on Wimbledon Common and take away Uncle Bulgaria and the ghastly tribe, long haul, one way.

Michael Keating heads the Canned Food Advisory Service, the latest recruit to the ranks of those blandly-named business pressure groups.

Keating is a marketing manager of the service's paymasters, Metal Box, makers of nearly three-quarters of the food cans used in this country. Metal Box appears particularly embattled at the moment: the company is being investigated by the Price Commission. Food processors say that the price of the cans is rising even faster than the food they wrap around.

Consumers, Keating said yesterday, still don't understand frozen food after 150 years. "They tend to boil away all the goodness sealed into the can," he complains.

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CROWN AGENTS: THE FAY AND STEVENSON REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Inquiry finds losses due to incompetence and condemns secondary banking activity

The Committee of Inquiry, led by Judge Edgar Fay, attributes the substantial losses of the Crown Agents' activities to incompetence rather than misconduct. The actions and inaction of individuals, coupled with defective systems of accountability, management control and bad accounting, were causes, with outside agencies contributing to the failures to prevent the losses.

In a 205-page report, which examines all the circumstances which led the Crown Agents to request government assistance in 1974, the Fay Committee points out that between 1967 and 1974 the organization conducted on its own account a substantial secondary banking activity, engaging in investment and lending which was unwise both in character and degree.

The committee concludes that the Crown Agents embarked upon this course without seeking independent advice and we find that they possessed neither the skills nor the organization necessary for such an enterprise. Accountability was lacking and the organization developed at a time when it was believed that those deploying funds could hardly avoid making losses.

But there was another factor in the origin of the Crown Agents' activities. The Fay Committee had large funds to deploy and that there were money dealing opportunities open to those with large funds at their command. They had had for many years an embryonic bank in the form of the Crown Agents' Finance Department, which had been set up to manage the Joint Consolidated Fund and the Joint Miscellaneous Fund, which they deployed in safe investment.

Once the eyes of those concerned were opened to the opportunities presented by the management of their own funds, they embraced the prospect with enthusiasm. One of the remarkable features of the money dealing developed. They started in the first quarter of 1967 and by 30 September 1968, when the money dealing had reached the order of £50m, and investment in the Crown Agents' Finance Department had started, together with investment in subsidiary companies and in Australian property development.

Some of the wider enterprises, such as unsuccessful speculation in silver and in mining shares, had already been started. Thereafter we have the impression that the main purpose of the own-account activities was not the securing of a steady stream of income but money-making for its own sake.

Finance 'in good hands'

There was thus a substantial secondary banking enterprise in being at the time when the Fay Committee succeeded to the Chairmanship of the Crown Agents. Mr. Chailley, who had played an important part in the money dealing, had been chosen to head the Finance Directorate. After Sir Stephen's departure Mr. Chailley was virtually supreme in his field. He was a newcomer as Chairman, and Sir Stephen's departure was a blow to the Crown Agents' Finance Department.

Mr. Chailley told us that he had been assured by his predecessor that the money dealing was in good hands and that he could concentrate on other things. At Crown Agents' Board meetings, he said, he was not asked to question the money dealing, and he was not asked to question the money dealing.

Mr. Newman, the Crown Agents' Managing Director, told us, we were not asked to question the money dealing, and he was not asked to question the money dealing. Mr. Chailley would not consult his Chairman in so far as he thought it necessary or desirable and, not surprisingly, was successful in eliciting his support. Mr. Newman said that the Fay Committee did not lack for

reason why he should. But we have no doubt that the major decisions were his and that, for example, the loans to Stern and the GCA Capital Corporation were made at his behest. It was upon Mr. Chailley that the lack of accountability worked its effects. His subordinates were accountable to him, but he was not accountable to any one. In theory he was accountable to the Chairman, but the Chairman exerted no effective control over him, and joined forces with him to repel any accountability to external bodies. Lack of discipline undermined morale, and we are sure that the absence of constraints on Mr. Chailley played a part in producing and perpetuating the characteristics we discuss below.

Alongside the run-of-the-mill deposit operations, there were transactions the schemes we have dealt with. And throughout we find that the characteristics of the Finance Directorate under Mr. Chailley included: (i) unjustified risk-taking; (ii) a lack of regulation and control and an aversion from taking advice; (iii) secretiveness; (iv) a lack of standard commercial ethics; (v) a haphazard choice of associates.

We have been rounded by witnesses of the fact that the Crown Agents were not alone in suffering misfortune in 1974: the crisis of confidence of the clearing banks, the collapse of many fringe banks, and the over-extended property companies inflicted losses upon the Crown Agents. It is true that the Crown Agents' Finance Department, like the other fringe banks, was engaged in speculative and imprudent financing, and probably many of the fringe banks that collapsed will be found to have suffered from similar causes.

But the prudent banks, though they were not alone in suffering misfortune in 1974, did so with a proper regard to security and in such proportions as to ensure that they were not endangered by the crisis. The Crown Agents, on the contrary, it is a case of two very different types of bank. The Crown Agents' Finance Department, like the other fringe banks, was engaged in speculative and imprudent financing, and probably many of the fringe banks that collapsed will be found to have suffered from similar causes.

Missed opportunity

One can understand the own-account operations starting in a small way and needing little by way of rules and regulations at the time when the money dealing was in its infancy. But when a properly conducted business grapples with the problem of management and control, when Mr. Chailley became Director of Finance and when Sir Claude came fresh to the organization, an opportunity was afforded for either to bring the money dealing under control or to take appropriate measures. The opportunity was not taken.

There was no systematic management accounting. Thus it was that the Crown Agents' Finance Department, like the other fringe banks, was engaged in speculative and imprudent financing, and probably many of the fringe banks that collapsed will be found to have suffered from similar causes.

Under Sir Claude's leadership, the Finance Directorate was reorganized. The Fay Committee found that the Finance Directorate was reorganized. The Fay Committee found that the Finance Directorate was reorganized.

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applicants eager to do business with them, especially as they became known in the City, according to evidence given to us, as "an easy touch". But it is a strange organization which allows a junior official, as Mr. Wheatley was at the time, to recruit to his subordinates, none of whom among our witnesses, save Mr. Chailley, found him other than forbidding. Sir Claude's approach to his subordinates was clearly responsible for the remarkable delay in grappling with the Stern crisis.

Sir Claude's determination to accept and maintain a position of independence for himself, the Crown Agents, and for the Crown Agents' organization in his charge led to a major battle with the Ministry from the time in 1969 when they discovered that the 1974 when he departed. As against the Ministry's real motives in making their inquiries and led him into actively misinforming the Ministry's real motives in making their inquiries and led him into actively misinforming the Ministry's real motives in making their inquiries.

The losses which may be classified as due to (i) unsecured lending to borrowers; (ii) secured lending where the security was defective; (iii) unsecured lending in cases where rescue failed; (iv) equity investments in associated companies which have failed; (v) participation in property development and dealing. The equity investments form a small proportion of the whole because the Crown Agents injected money into their associates by way of loans rather than by shareholdings. The lending is both in sterling and in other currencies.

Speculative ventures. Sterling lending was the province of the Sterling Money Market. The Crown Agents' Finance Department, like the other fringe banks, was engaged in speculative and imprudent financing, and probably many of the fringe banks that collapsed will be found to have suffered from similar causes.

As to financing property, a bank or finance house has broadly two options, one to lend at proper rates on ample security, the other to lend with less security and less, or delay, return. The Crown Agents' Finance Department, like the other fringe banks, was engaged in speculative and imprudent financing, and probably many of the fringe banks that collapsed will be found to have suffered from similar causes.

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ings, and by August 1972 he was mentioning one of Mr. Chailley's major shortcomings to the Permanent Secretary—his readiness to do business inconsistent with the standing of the Crown Agents. Sir Claude would have known more about this than we do, but it is clear that he was aware of it. Sir Claude's approach to his subordinates was clearly responsible for the remarkable delay in grappling with the Stern crisis.

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Sir Jasper Hollins: Deputy Governor of Bank of England, who announced Crown Agents' failure.



Sir Matthew Stevenson: chairman of committee which wants Crown Agents' status clarified.



Judge E. S. Fay: report cites shortcomings of Department and other outside agencies.

Government accepts conclusion of serious shortcomings by agency

The Government statement says: "The Government and the Crown Agents accept the Report as a fair and searching investigation into the facts; and accept the Report's conclusion that there were serious shortcomings on the part of the Crown Agents and that Departments and other outside agencies contributed to the failure on previous losses."

"During this period, there was a lack of clarity concerning the relationship between the Crown Agents and the Government, and the information made available to Ministers was incomplete. It is recognized by all concerned that for much of the period between 1967 and 1974 the Crown Agents' activities were not in accordance with the terms of their mandate, and the nature of their investments, as outlined in the Report, was unsound."

"The Government believes that its efforts to explore the causes of this failure, and its decision to lay all the facts before Parliament, and its efforts to secure the Crown Agents' status, are a sound response to the need for quick action. It is determined that the conduct of the Crown Agents' activities, and shall be seen to be so."

Lack of skill

Crown Agents' Accounts for 1975 show that as at December 31, 1975, the deficit on the own-account investments in property and secondary banking, (the latter being the main cause of the loss), was £121m. The deficit will not be known with certainty until the accounts are published, but it is already clear that the deficit will be in excess of £200m.

The subject of the Government Statement, the essential background is summarized as: "What the Crown Agents did was to conduct a substantial secondary banking activity, and to conduct it in a way which was not in accordance with the terms of their mandate, and the nature of their investments, as outlined in the Report, was unsound."

Choice of four models for future organization

The report of the Advisory Committee of Inquiry into the Crown Agents' activities, published on December 1, 1977, states that the committee has concluded that the Crown Agents' activities were not in accordance with the terms of their mandate, and the nature of their investments, as outlined in the Report, was unsound.

What is described as the "large and multifarious business" of the Crown Agents, which is dealt with in some detail, includes procurement, advisory and personal services, fund management, banking and other financial services.

The Crown Agents carry on business with a wide range of clients, including governments, international organizations, and private individuals. The committee has concluded that the Crown Agents' activities were not in accordance with the terms of their mandate, and the nature of their investments, as outlined in the Report, was unsound.

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judging by the continued success of their traditional role, the Crown Agents' orthodox activities have not suffered from the publicity accorded to their own account business, and in 1975 and 1976 the traditional services produced gross income of £11m and £17m respectively. These services had for nearly 50 years been the main reason for the Crown Agents' existence; they will now be the basis for a continuing future.

The Statement points out that the Crown Agents' management systems have been examined since the events described in the Fay Report. Since October 1974 the Crown Agents have had a proper secretariat, and the management system has been established, with clearly defined levels of authority and control.

In this connection, the Crown Agents' management accounting and financial information system has been examined, and professionally qualified people have been appointed from outside the organization to bring in the necessary expertise.

The accounts are now published in accordance with Ministry directions, agreed with the Treasury, and are subject to audit and their form so as to give the fullest measure of disclosure. The Statement concludes: "There has been a complete change of direction, and the Crown Agents' activities are now being gradually remedied, at the cost of Government financial support. The Crown Agents' senior staff are now being replaced by more experienced and more professional people, and the organization is being restructured to bring in the necessary expertise."

The Government places firmly on record its confidence in the Board of the Crown Agents and in their traditional activities now and in the future on behalf of their own account business. The Government's confidence in the Board of the Crown Agents is a reflection of the confidence in the Board of the Crown Agents.

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Board structure. "The Crown Agents are now performing their invaluable services on behalf of their Principals, who are the United Kingdom governments, Associated States and Dependencies, 132 Commonwealth public bodies, and 37 non-Commonwealth governments and agencies. Since December 1974, the Crown Agents have been under a new management system, which has been established, with clearly defined levels of authority and control."

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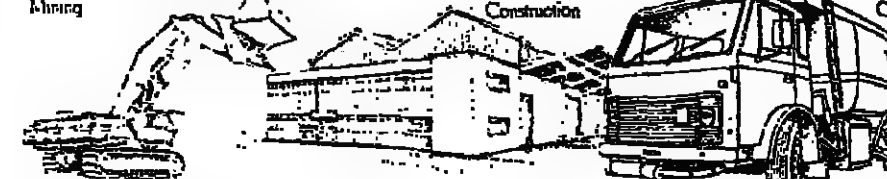
BURNETT & HALLAMSHIRE GROUP

A FURTHER INCREASE AT INTERIM STAGE

- Pre-tax profits increased by 35%
- Turnover increased by 44%
- Earnings per share increased by 37%
- Progress will be maintained as planned

NIGEL SWIFTEN CHAIRMAN

INTERIM RESULTS (UNAUDITED)	six months ended 30-9-77	six months ended 30-9-76
TURNOVER	£173,500,000	£120,500,000
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,420,000	£1,050,000
EARNINGS PER SHARE	13.42p	9.97p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	14.275p	12.775p



BURNETT & HALLAMSHIRE HOLDINGS LIMITED
119 PSALTER LANE SHEFFIELD S11 6TB

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

UKO International ahead despite slide in margins

UKO International, formerly UK Optical & Industrial Holdings, which earlier this year successfully escaped from the clutches of Pilkington Brothers, reports an increase in pre-tax profits of 5 per cent to £1.9m for the six months to September 30.

Turnover on the other hand jumped from £16.1m to £19.0m sending margins sliding from 11.1 per cent to 9.9 per cent. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 4.4p gross compared with 4.0p for the corresponding period.

The board reports that demand at home and abroad for the group's products has remained well below normal levels throughout the half-year. The increase in sales on the

other hand was largely attributable to the effect of recent acquisitions by the group. The increase in profits was only partly attributable to these purchases.

The capital expenditure programme undertaken by UKO in recent years is yielding increased profits, but this has been hampered by output and labour problems in certain areas. Steps however are being taken to eliminate these problems and further factor which also reduced the contribution to profits was the adverse exchange rates on conversion of profits from overseas branches.

At present however the board says that the group is well placed in all markets to

take immediate advantage of an upturn in demand. Sales of the group's catering equipment division were satisfactory during the first six months and prospects for exports are brighter than for some time.

The volume and value of export inquiries on hand at the end of the half year were much higher than in the recent past. Profits were satisfactory and would have been higher but for the effects of a labour dispute during the first half. Results of the group which is the world's second largest maker of ophthalmic glass lenses, rose 25 per cent to £4.7m for the year to March 31. News of the results set the shares back 1p to 177p

22 pc jump but Mitchell Cotts sees downswing

By Tony May
No great improvement in profits was expected by Mitchell Cotts for the year to June 30 so the 22 per cent advance to a record £1.6m before tax earned the group a 1p rise in its shares to 45p. However, a tax charge in South Africa which the group is disputing has prompted a non-recurring provision of £546,000 and this has pushed down the attributable profits from £1.2m to £1.9m. Another factor here was the cost of closing down the remnants of the group's steel operations in Canada. Earnings a share are up from 7.22p to 8.03p and the dividend is raised from 5.12p to 5.15p gross. This gives a yield of 14.4 per cent and a covered 2.31 times last year.

Mr J. K. Dick, the chairman of this commodities, transport and engineering group, believes that there "may well be a reduction in the level of pre-tax profit" for the current year. But he sees no reason why the group's attributable profits after all charges and extraordinary items, should not show an increase.

More Financial News on Page 28.

A breakdown of the group's activities shows that engineering is still far and away the biggest activity, followed by freight, transport and storage. Both of these divisions made up slightly less of the group's total operating profits than last year, reflecting the growth of the agriculture and commodity trading activities.

Despite the achievement of best-ever profits from South Africa, improvements in profit in other regions have diminished the percentage contribution from this source from 81 per cent to 68 per cent. The United Kingdom's share went up from 14 per cent to 16 per cent while East and Central Africa advanced its share of profits from 16 per cent to 20 per cent. Losses in Europe, North and South America and Australia cost only 4 per cent of profit against 11 per cent last year.

Growth continues and the latest purchase was that of Houghton Freight Services for the United Kingdom east coast side of the business. This cost the group £500,000 net by placing of shares.

Stock markets

Miners and BP put an end to rally

Equity prices drifted back from a firm start through a lack of sustained interest brought about, in part, by the miners' meeting with the Coal Board on pay.

The other main bar to further progress was a set of third-quarter figures from BP which were a disappointment even by the standards of the market's scaled down estimates. Nevertheless dealers regard the performance of the past three days as favouring the "bulls" rather than the "bears" with prices consolidating at around 480.0 on the FT index. At last night's close of 479.8 it was 1.2 down on the day having stood 2.7 better at 11 am.

Active ahead of the interim figures due in a couple of weeks the "A" shares of Great Universal Stores were a couple of pence off at 312p. The market is looking for a modest improvement in profits from £16m to around £20m. Mail order is expected to have given a life to retailing, but the exchange rate trend will not have benefited the overseas side of the business.

The doubt is the thinness of trading on the industrial pitches which leaves prices extremely vulnerable to adverse developments, particularly on the industrial front. As such, most are happy to take stock of the situation on a day-to-day basis rather than trying to discern a longer-term trend.

In spite of the Bank's assurance on MLR most activity in the gilt-edged market was at the short end where stocks fell

away in late trading to end with losses of up to half a point.

Longer dates stood up better to close, generally, around one quarter below their overnight levels.

On their last day of trading before going fully paid the BP new shares ended 5p ahead at 380p and the old, reflecting the disappointment, shedding 20p to 900p. There was a sympathetic movement from Shell which eased 7p to 557p.

The clearing banks continued to perform strongly with Barclays, the last to raise its base rate, up 6p to 332p and similar gains from Lloyds at 282p and National Westminster also at 282p. Figures deemed to be satisfactory lifted National Commercial 4p to 74p and elicited a sympathetic gain of

10p to 283p from Bank of Scotland.

Figures well above market expectations had Bass Charrington 9p to the good at 161p and helped Guinness to gain 3p to 188p in tandem. As low as 199p or one stage Rascal picked up after figures and a bullish forecast to end 9p up at 208p.

Willows Francis, whose potential as a takeover candidate has been mentioned here, was marked up 31p to 105p after surprise terms from Guinness Peat, while steel group Leon Berner gained 5p to 19p on the bid from Bevan. Graham Wood, another steel group, went ahead 4p to 57p after an announcement had dispelled doubts that takeover talks might be failing. Equity turnover on November 30 was £84.28m (13,533 bar-

gains). BP partly paid, Shell, Rascal, BP, ICI, Commercial Union, GEC, EMI, BAT Div.

Shareholders in Graham Wood Steel Group should not sell yet. At 57p the shares have done little since their jump of 11p to 56p at the beginning of November on news of talks about a possible bid. Yesterday the directors simply reported that talks continue. One impression is that British Steel is the party interested in, at least, a large part of Wood, and that the talks are now about a price of 65p a share.

Grand Metropolitan, Great Universal Stores, Becham, John Brown, Reed, Oil Exploration, Walker & Staff and Graham Wood.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	pence	pence	date	total
Int of Fin	90.4(88.6)	16.4(10.7)	3.2(2.8)	—	—	4.8(4.3)
Bass Charrington (F)	2,960.0(2,630.0)	43.6(36.5)	—	—	—	(19.7)
British Pet (O)	2,463.0	0.43(0.39)	0.58(0.5)	—	—	1.67
Croby Spring (H)	3.4(3.0)	0.21(—)	—	13/1	—	(0.58)
Diamond Syntex (I)	0.60(0.59)	0.05(0.02)	0.84(0.54)	—	—	(0.8)
Eschweg Gold B (F)	—	—	4.58(4.55)	—	—	8.4(9.7)
M. J. Gleeson (F)	—	—	1.15(1.02)	26/1	—	1.81
Clifford B (F)	2.9(1.7)	—	30.0(50.0)	75(25)	—	125(50)
Mitchell Cotts (F)	—	—	11.6(9.5)	8.03(7.22)	2.7(2.6)	3.4(3.2)
Nat & Com Bk (F)	—	—	64.0(57.7)	13.4(12.4)	1.8(1.7)	2.6(2.1)
Trans-Oceanic (F)	—	—	0.02(0.02)	—	—	(NUL)
Rascal (I)	89.9(51.9)	—	19.3(1.5)	1.7(0.62)	—	(1.77)
Rand Est B (F)	—	—	—	200.0(100.0)	17/3	350.0(200)
Routledge & S (I)	1.5(1.2)	—	0.18(0.15)	1.25(1.0)	—	(3.6)
Walbrook B (F)	—	—	—	12	—	—
600 Group (I)	93.0(95.0)	—	5.4(4.8)	1.85(1.65)	20/1	(3.65)
Sunrise Clothes (I)	1.9(1.6)	—	0.05(0.02)	—	—	—
Trans-Oceanic (F)	—	—	5.2(4.35)	2.5(2.7)	—	8.0(6.2)
UKO Int (I)	19.0(16.1)	—	1.9(1.8)	2.39(2.6)	10/2	(4.9)
UIM Wire Gp	12.3(10.2)	—	1.8(1.1)	2.89(2.8)	—	4.69(4.2)
Western Areas (F)	—	—	7.0(7.0)	13(15)	—	—
Willows Francis (I)	—	—	1.3(1.2)	—	20/1	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a Loss, b Cents.

D F Bevan in Guinness bid for Leon Berner Gp

Shareholders of the steel stockholding and manufacturing Leon Berner Group are to be offered 17p for each of their shares by the D. F. Bevan (Holdings) metal merchandising group. Both groups have the same chairman, Mr J. M. Wardle. The bid follows Bevan's purchase of a near-48 per cent stake held by the late Mr Leon Berner at the same price, as well as 95 per cent of the preference shares at 10p.

News of the offer, which values Berner at about £700,000, sent the shares up 5p to 19p.

Last month the Berner group celebrated the return to its old form by paying a first and final dividend of 1.13p gross. This was a return to the dividend lost after a two-year gap. The last dividend was 1.11p gross in 1974. Profits showed a continued recovery and jumped from £19,000 to £151,000 for the year to May 31. Earnings a share went up from 1.2p to 5.3p.

GRINDLAYS BANK GROUP INTEREST RATES

Grindlays Bank Group announce the following changes in their base rates for lending with effect from 2 December, 1977.

GRINDLAYS BANK LIMITED	from 6% to 7 1/2%
GRINDLAYS BRANDTS LIMITED	from 7% to 8 1/2%
GRINDLAYS BANK (SCOTLAND) LTD.	from 7% to 8 1/2%
CAPITAL FOR AGRICULTURE LIMITED	from 7% to 8 1/2%

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be 3% on call deposits of £300-£999 4% on call deposits of £1,000 and over

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over £10,000 will be quoted on request.

Grindlays Bank Group

Turnover drops but 600 Gp up 13 pc

By Our Financial Staff

After a cautious approach to the current year in the annual report by Sir Jack Wallings, the chairman of the 600 Group, the company has managed a 13 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £5.44m in the 26 weeks to October 15.

The increase was achieved despite a £2m drop in turnover to £93m and operating profits down 7.4 per cent to £1.1m with operating profits rising from £7.04m to £7.55m.

The major boost to the company came from the machine tool and engineering divisions and from the overseas companies, according to the chairman. Last year the engineering products side of the group showed a strong advance in profits, which rose by nearly £1m to £2.63m, with the crane companies, now marked into a substantial improvement.

The machine tool division has continued to see steady growth—last year profits rose from £3.5m to £4.57m. However, in this first half the iron and steel division has continued to be affected by the recession in the work of the industry and saw a further further downturn in the first 26 weeks of the year. Last year the group made a 26 per cent increase in profits to £3.2m. Following last year's rights issue which raised £5m, interest charges in the first half have declined from £1.05m to £792,000.



Sir Jack Wallings, chairman of The 600 Group.

The group's exports have increased in value by 25 per cent over the same period last year and Sir Jack reports that there is strong overseas demand for the company's products which he considers are still competitive despite the rise in sterling.

An interim dividend of 2.8p a share gross has been declared compared with 2.54p. The prospective total dividend for the year is 6.08p, on the basis of a 10 per cent increase, which, with the shares up 1p to 66p yesterday, provides a yield of 9.2 per cent. The chairman remains cautious in his forecast for the year which is to at least maintain the overall level of profits.

Sir J Hodge buys Avana shares

In the share deals announced recently, Sir Julian Hodge, chairman of the Avana Group, has bought 100,000 Avana ordinary shares. This is about half of 1 per cent of the ordinary capital.

British Industrial Holdings has bought 15,000 ordinary shares of Avana, bringing its total to 242,000 shares, or 17.1 per cent. McLeod Russell has bought 20,000 shares in Churchbury Estates and now holds 365,000 shares, or 22.81 per cent.

Hanson Trust has bought stakes in four companies. It now holds more than 5 per cent of ordinary capital of Cosalt (5.08 per cent), Lindurries (5.62 per cent), Sellinco (6 per cent) and Sidlaw Industries (5.63 per cent). Lucas has been adding to its holding in Automotive Products by buying another 625,000 shares. This brings Lucas's stake to 4.28m shares, or 11.43 per cent.

Barclays Merchant Bank at £9.7m

Barclays Merchant Bank announces a one-third increase in pre-tax profits to £3.9m in the year to September 30. The merchant banking arm of Barclays, whose chairman Mr Charles Ball recently resigned over differences of policy to be replaced by Mr Derek Weyer, has faced slack lending conditions to industry.

Barclays Bank International also announces the sale of 5.9 million shares in Australia and New Zealand Bankings.

Ladbroke buys 14 pc of Leisure & Gen

Ladbroke Group has bought 1.5m shares, or about 14.7 per cent of the capital, of Leisure & General Holdings at 60p a share. Of these shares, 1.49m were formerly included in the beneficial holdings of First Castle Securities. The prices paid is the consideration being offered by Ladbroke to all Leisure shareholders. It has already received a coal reception from Leisure's board.

Margin pressure in Gleeson standstill

By Victor Felstead

Latest results from M. J. Gleeson (Contractors), the civil engineering, building contractors and estate developers, show small improvement. Turnover in the 12 months to June 30 rose from £52m to £54m, while pre-tax profits were virtually unchanged at £1.43m, against £1.42m.

Moreover, if adjusted for inflation, the volume of turnover shows a decline of 14.5 per cent. And the pre-tax profits include £1.01m of bank interest, reflecting Gleeson's strong liquidity and the high interest rates, as well as growing pressure on margins.

Bank interest of £387,000 was included in last year's figure, which has also been restated to take in £22,000 from a change in the basis of accounting for work-in-progress.

Reflecting the market's disappointment with the figures, the shares fell 5p to 49p.

Earnings per share are up from 6.54p to 6.56p, and the total gross dividend rises from 2.53p to 2.78p.

Although Gleeson's present order book is "satisfactory"

and the turnover for the current year may be maintained at the 1976-77 level, the board warns that the acute work shortage in the construction industry at home will make it increasingly difficult to keep the order book filled. Pressure on trading margins will continue until the industry's present "over-competitive price structure" is relieved by the urgently awaited release of public expenditure programmes held back by last year's Government spending cuts, the directors say.

Meanwhile, the group is making progress overseas, with the first successfully completed cold-store contract in Egypt being followed by a second.

Although the year's pre-tax profits are a record, they show just how much margins have suffered. Moreover, the second half's profits are a fall of almost 22 per cent on the similar half of the previous year.

Even if the current year's turnover is maintained, profits could well be lower. The one bright spot seems to be overseas. If the group could gain more work there, especially in the Middle East, this might make all the difference.

Jump of 70 pc but United Wire gives a warning

Crowning a rapid recovery from the 1975 setback, United Wire Group has reached a record profit for the year to October 1, but the board can see a red light ahead.

The "substantial" increase of 70 per cent in pre-tax profits to £1.8m came almost entirely from the United Kingdom and Mr A. R. Green, the chairman of this Edinburgh-based group says that the overseas operations contribute only slightly more than last year. The directors regard the year's increase in profits as exceptional, and "because of current business uncertainties" view the year ahead with some caution.

At half time, the group turned in a profit of £936,000 on turnover of £4.4m, up from £4.2m. This pointed to doubled margins of 14.6 per cent.

In the event the second six months brought a 21 per cent rise in profits to £952,000, to £5.9m so margins jumped from 13.3 per cent to 15.9 per cent.

The rise in turnover for the year as a whole was 19 per cent to £12.3m, giving margins of 15.2 per cent against 10.7 per cent a year ago. Earnings a share of 1.19p against 6.4p, while the dividend is raised from 6.47p to 7.1p gross,

THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP BASE RATES

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and The British Bank of the Middle East

announce that their base rate for lending is being increased, with effect from 1st December, 1977

From 6% per annum to 7% per annum

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[illegible]

Bank of Ireland

announces that the following rates will apply from and including

2nd December 1977

Base Lending Rate 7½ p.a.

Base Interest Rate for deposits ... 4 p.a.

Bank of Ireland

Standard Chartered

announce that on and after 2nd December, 1977

the following annual rates will apply:

Base rate 7½ p.a.
(Increased from 6%)

Deposit rate 4 p.a.
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Standard Chartered Bank Limited



Co-operative Bank

With effect from 2nd December, 1977 the following rates will apply

Base Rate Change

From 6% to 7% p.a.

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Barclays Bank Base Rate

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 2nd December, 1977, their Base Rate will be increased from 6% to 7½ per annum.

The basic interest rate for deposits will be increased from 3% to 4½ per annum.

The new rate applies also to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited



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FINANCIAL NEWS

Dresdner Bank ahead but margins pressed

From Peter Norman
 Bonn, Dec 1

Dresdner Bank operating profits rose by about 10 per cent in the first 10 months of this year, Herr Helmut Baerger, the Bank's executive board spokesman, said.

At a press conference in Düsseldorf, he indicated that the cash dividend for 1977 will be reduced from the 20 per cent paid for last year to take account of the changes in West German corporation tax.

But the cut is likely to be small to avoid putting the Bank's shareholders resident outside West Germany at too great a disadvantage.

Dresdner Bank's interim figures for the first 10 months of this year show a slower growth in regular earnings than Deutsche Bank's figures.

Because of a squeeze on margins, the surplus of interest received over interest paid increased by only 6 per cent to DM1,160m despite a 14 per cent rise in the average volume of business.

The surplus from charging commission on service transactions increased fractionally to DM347m from DM344.6m.

Woolworth record
F. W. Woolworth Company of America, reports that sales for the four weeks ended November 22 totalled \$453.3m, an increase of 6.3 per cent over sales of \$426.6m last year. For the 43 weeks ended November 22, sales increased 6.7 per cent to \$4,200m from \$3,900m. These are records for both periods.

Thyssen payment
Thyssen Industrie AG, the West German steel and engineering group which includes the former Rhein Stahl AG, should pay a provisional DM62.3m (about £14.8m) compared with DM48.3m to its parent, Thyssen AG for its 1976-77 year, says the chairman, Herr Wolfgang Schaefer.

Turnover was DM4,300m against DM4,400m, which the export share was 35.7 per cent against 31.8 per cent. Incoming orders were DM4,000m compared with DM3,800m. There is an order backlog of DM2,700m compared with DM2,900m.

Thyssen AG holds around 90 per cent of Thyssen Industrie's DM470m capital. The 10 per cent minority shareholders will receive a guaranteed 50 per cent of Thyssen AG's expected

DM5.50 1976-77 dividend as agreed under the Thyssen share offer for Rhein Stahl, a spokesman said.

Westralian Sands

Westralian Sands of Australia has issued 28.6m 10 cent par shares to Tioxide Australia at 20 cents a share after shareholder approval. The issue gives Tioxide a 40 per cent holding in Westralian Sands. Tioxide's holding company in Britain is Tioxide Group, 44 per cent of which is owned by Imperial Chemical Industries, 44 per cent by Lead Industries Group and 12 per cent by Federated Chemical Holdings.

Westralian Sands also receive from Tioxide its interests in two Western Australian minerals sands located off Meek and long-term limestone contracts.

Total Kenya

Total Kenya, a subsidiary of Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, has started drilling operations off the coast of Kenya. The company acts as operator for an association of the two French oil groups CFP (Total) (70 per cent) and Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine (30 per cent). The offshore well has been named "Slime-1" and is located off Mombasa, in 920 metre-deep water.

Carter Hawley boost

Carter Hawley Hale Stores of Los Angeles, which sold its stake in the House of Fraser to Lorch, says that sales for the four weeks ended November 26 were \$151.8m (about £84.3m), an increase of 12.2 per cent from \$135.3m in November 1976. Sales for the first 10 months of this year were \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976.

Credit Suisse sale

Credit Suisse has sold its controlling interest in the Swiss bank to Jelmoli, a Zurich-based company, for \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976. Credit Suisse has sold its controlling interest in the Swiss bank to Jelmoli, a Zurich-based company, for \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976.

Fruehauf of US has over 44 pc of Crane's capital

Fruehauf Corporation of the United States may be nearing victory in its 13-month-old battle to take over the Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk-based manufacturers of semi-trailers, transporters and tankers. On November 30, Fruehauf bought 116,000 ordinary shares in Crane at 100p a share, which is the current price offered by Fruehauf after being raised five times.

Fruehauf now owns or has agreed to buy 6.81 million Crane ordinary shares, or over 44 per cent of the capital. This means that rival bidder Inception, which has made a lower offer but has the agreement of the United Kingdom directors of Crane, may soon be defeated.

On Wednesday, Mr. G. P. Malley, the Fruehauf president, met shop stewards representing Crane's manufacturing locations to talk over the implications of the bid situation. After the meeting, Mr. Malley said they were "impressed by what Mr. Malley had to say regarding future job-security of Crane Fruehauf employees and the future prospects of the company should Fruehauf be successful in their takeover bid".

ERGO LISTING
East Rand Gold & Uranium (Ergo) has applied for a listing on the Stock Exchange, London, and expects dealings to begin on Monday.

RCH UNDERWRITING
Bland Welch, part of Bland Payne insurance broking group, and Edgar Hamilton Carter, Lloyd's brokers, have set up new company, RCH Underwriting Management, to act as agents for

Briefly

new motor syndicate Syndicate is called Motor Policies and will write fleet business with an initial capital of £1m.

HALLAM PREFERENCE Board announced that preference dividend for half year to December 31 will not be paid.

ALLIED PLANT Resolved to sell for sale of two properties and Reynolds (Excavations), as were resolutions to buy Malcom West Plant, one-third interest in F. & S. White 75 Beverley Road, Hull which incorporated issue of its shares in part payment. Resolutions for acquisition of 4m shares also passed.

DE LA RUE ACCEPTANCES Acceptances received in rights issue amount to some 89.5 per cent of 1.7m shares offered.

EDINBURGH & DUNDEE Board announced that British Rail Pension Fund claims of over 50 per cent acceptances. Shareholders advised to no nothing, as they will not be bound by a majority unless offer goes unconditional.

BANK OF MONTREAL Revenue after tax for year to October 31 \$122m (\$85.3m). Earnings per share after tax \$3.18 (\$2.71). Major factors were strong asset growth and continued improvement in control of operating expenses.

LONGBOURNE-BRIT IND TEA Acceptances received by Longbourne total 154,000 (91.5 per cent) which with holdings totals 91.6 per cent. Offer for preference still conditional on ordinary offer becoming unconditional.

Business appointments

Board addition to Ready Mixed Concrete

Mr A. H. A. Dibbs has been elected a director of Ready Mixed Concrete.

Mr R. C. Thompson and Mr P. M. White have joined the board of Carrington Vitella Group.

The Earl of Dartmouth and Mr N. Vison have become additional directors of Scottish and Mercantile Investment.

Mr W. R. Henry, Mr W. Proudfoot and Mr G. R. H. Reid have been made directors of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Mr David Griffiths has been made General Director of Prestcold Holdings. Mr James Hamilton becomes managing director of Prestcold Scottish operations.

Mr Alexander Brown has been made a director of Alfred Dunhill. Mr K. Kikuchi has been appointed by Mitsui Bank as general manager, New York.

Kawamura becomes general manager, London. Mr Mike Roberts has gone on to the board of Ricca.

Mr John Dewey, formerly deputy chairman of Humphries Holdings, has been made chairman in succession to Mr Hugh Dundas, who has resigned from the board.

Mr F. Brown, Mr P. G. Edwards and Mr B. A. Johnson have become directors of Corval.

Mr John Stansby is now chairman of H. Picking.

Mr P. Chilton becomes a director of Sphère Drake (Underwear).

Mr C. D. Mackay has been made managing director of Paktrans.



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Two Swedish companies concerned with engineering and electrical production and installation are jointly seeking an experienced marketing man to expand their activities in the Middle East.

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Ideally, applicants for the post will have had experience of negotiating and concluding agreements for pipe, mechanical and electrical installations, and will certainly possess a relevant marketing background. The successful applicant will be based in the Middle East, but will be expected to spend a certain amount of time in Sweden. An attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Further information about the post can be obtained via the telephone number below. Applications, which must be received by 8th December, should be sent to Guy Warwick Associates, Lottfield House, Orwell, near Royston, Herts. SG8 5QT. Telephone Arrington (022 920) 787. Interviews will be held in London in mid-December.



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Closing date for application: 12th December. Applications should be sent to THE CORRESPONDENT, ASHWICK HALL, MARSHFIELD, CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.



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Please write giving details of age, experience and present salary to The Editor, Room 2201, Country Life, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS.

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